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THE HISTORY OF CLAIBORNE
PARISH, LOUISIANA



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THE
HISTORY
OF
CLAIBORNE PARISH,
La. LOUISIANA,

FROM

ITS INCORPORATION IN 1828 TO THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1885
WITH SKETCHES OF PIONEER LIFE IN NORTH LOUIS-
IANA—THE EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE PAR-
ISH AND ITS RAPID PROGRESS IN
WEALTH TO 1861—ALSO THE

MUSTER AND DEATH ROLLS

OF

HER SONS IN THE LATE BLOODY WAR—THE RISE AND PRO-
GRESS OF HER DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS ORDERS—HER
MINERAL WEALTH AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

COMPILED BY

D. W. HARRIS & B. M. HULSE.

NEW ORLEANS :

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DEDICATION.




O the fathers who endured the hardships and privations of a frontier life in settling this country—to the memory of their noble sons who fell in battling for their native land—and to all who love their Parish and State, and feel an interest in their material development and progress, this work is affectionately dedicated.

B. M. H.




PREFACE.

A very few words will suffice to introduce this little book.

It was written to keep alive the memories of the Fathers ; to present to the youth of our land, of this and future generations, a picture of life as it was in North Louisiana sixty years ago, showing how people in that day made love, celebrated marriage, administered justice, went to church, etc.; to perpetuate the memory and preserve a record of the heroic deeds and sublime suffering of those who fought under a flag that is forever furled; to give to those who shall come after us, a correct history of the stormy Reconstruction days—an ordeal more trying than the war itself—and to protect the acts of that exciting period from misrepresentation; to encourage and stimulate to greater exertion those laboring in the cause of education and religion, by reciting the highly gratifying progress of the past; and to correct as far as possible, the many false impressions that have been made upon those living in other sections about our State by partial and superficial tourists, and to set our rich and

varied resources in their proper light before the world, with the view of turning emigration in the direction of our highly favored, and heretofore misrepresented and inaccessible section.

How well the task has been executed, we leave for others to say. That the work is in some respects incomplete, and contains many errors, we are painfully aware. Some of the muster and death rolls are incomplete, and quite a number of soldiers from Claiborne, joined companies in adjoining parishes, whose names we have been unable to procure.

A number of enterprising citizens have aided us in the preparation of the work, in the way of furnishing data; to these we now return our thanks.

We return special thanks to Capt. J. H. Walker, Prof. H. C. Brownfield, J. E. Hulse, Esq., and Mr. B. R. Coleman, for valuable assistance in compiling the work.

B. M. H.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

THE art of navigation nearly to the close of the fifteenth century was confined to the inland seas and the coasts of the European or Eastern world. The compass not then being known, the seaman, in his voyages, was guided on his course by capes, headlands, the sun and stars; consequently, his voyages were of no great extent. Tradition had filled the wider seas with dangers and monsters dire; storms guarded all unknown regions and forbade all venture into the unknown. An obscuration by clouds of the sun and stars filled the seaman's soul with a sense of dread for fear he might lose his course and miss the port he sought. Furthermore, there was a danger line in the wide western sea and in the equatorial regions that he dared not approach. The descending waters of the one would surely prevent his return home—the heat of the other would dissolve his ship.

But towards the close of the fifteenth century, new though vague ideas as to the shape of the surrounding seas began to be entertained; the geographer and the philosopher assumed to teach that the earth, instead of being a flat or vast plain, was round; they denied that the sea extended to an immeasurable distance in all directions from and around the earth and flowed over at some unknown limit and was wasted in

the void below ; or that the equatorial sea was a hot, seething cauldron in which life was impossible. Men now began to reason, that should this earth of ours be round or globular, the sea must reach from shore to shore of its different coasts. Should this be true, at once was dissolved the many doubts, and the absurd theories that then perplexed the geographer as well as the philosopher. In a great measure it would make plain many facts belonging to sea and land that appeared inscrutable, such as the flow of rivers, the rising and falling of the tides, and the dip of the horizon.

Columbus had believed for years that the earth was round or globular, and that the waters of the ocean extended from the eastern shore of Europe to the western shore of India. If so, guided by that wonderful instrument, the compass, which had then come into use, he could sail across any sea to any land which it reached. Abjuring all traditional dangers he resolved to prove that nature's works were consistent, and an aimless creation impossible. His eagerness to prove his faith by his works became more fully aroused just at this time, by the wonderful stories brought from the far east by the Venician traveler, Marco Polo. These convinced him that the earth was round, and that by sailing to the west he could reach India—then the land of wonders and fabulous wealth, by a much shorter and safer route than by the long

and dangerous over-land route Marco Polo had traveled. He determined to prove the correctness of his theory.

With this theory well defined in his own mind, and with maps and charts in hand, he went forth in search of help, being poor, to enable him to undertake his great venture. Patiently, for years, he explained his theory of the conformation of the earth and urged the feasibility of the enterprise—all in vain. The ignorance of that period, as it was in ours when Morse begged a pittance to prove his telegraphic theory, closed the ears of bankers and thrones to his appeals. Genoa, his native state, Portugal and other powers rejected him as the wildest of adventurers.

“What,” exclaimed the learned schools and the great statesmen, “the earth round and like a globe swinging in space! and people on the other side with their feet towards ours! Impossible—absurd; they would fall from the earth into the void below; the ocean would be emptied of its waters; the rivers would run dry, and the earth become a desert. More, should the earth be globular and a ship sail down to the other side, it could never return, for a ship cannot sail up hill.”

As a last chance, Columbus approached the throne of Castile, or Spain. The King and Queen became interested in his theory, listened to his explanations until such rich visions of empire and wealth and the extension of the Holy Church arose in their minds,

that they determined to equip a fleet and send him forth on his great venture.

In due time a fleet of three small vessels, so small that few at this day would venture on a hundred miles from shore, were made ready. With much difficulty a crew was enlisted, and in August, 1492, Columbus sailed from the port of Palos on that voyage which has built up and revolutionized governments, religion, philosophy and knowledge. Touching at the Azore Islands, said to have been discovered by a ship driven by adverse winds out of her course, he thence turned the prows of his little fleet directly west into the wide waters of the deep and unknown Atlantic. After sailing many days to the west, without any sign of land appearing, the fears and superstitions of his crew began to make them uneasy. They murmured, and then demanded that the ships should be turned towards home. But Columbus, self-possessed, by persuasions and promises influenced his men to trust him and go yet further into the unknown sea. At last signs appeared which nerved the hearts of his trembling crew; birds began to fly over and around the ships, drift-wood was seen in the water, then a green bush floated by. These signs of land not far off were too plain to be unheeded; sail was shortened, and while moving slowly forward a close watch, by eager eyes, was kept for land. About midnight a light was seen moving as if carried by a person walking. Immediately the ships were stopped in their forward

movement for fear of going ashore, and all waited impatiently and wonderingly the marvelous revelation the morning was to bring forth. And when that memorable morning of October the 12th, 1492, came, a new world in all its pristine beauty lay before Columbus and his anxious crew. The fact that the earth was as a globe, that the waters of the sea reached from shore to shore was proved, and Columbus had triumphed.

Columbus, believing he was on the western coast of India, named the inhabitants Indians—hence the name of the original people of the American continent. In a subsequent voyage, he sailed for miles along the shore of the main land, south of the Carribean sea, and yet died not knowing he had discovered a new world.

This discovery of Columbus aroused a wild spirit of adventure among all the maritime people of Europe, and adventure after adventure was sent out to the new world, mainly in quest of gold and glory. Many sought, in the interest of commerce, a shorter route to India by way of the northern sea, but this vast continent, its extent then unknown, lay directly in the way. In search of this route, Cartier, a French navigator, in 1535, entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence and ascended the river of that name to an Indian village where now stands the town of Montreal.

In 1605 De Monts founded the town of Port Royal. in Nova Scotia, which claims to be the first

European settlement in America. Champlain, in 1608, established a trading post on the St. Lawrence river, which post in the course of years has become the historic city of Quebec. Sixty years after the establishment of this post, during which time the French had secured strong position on the St. Lawrence, Father Marquette, a Catholic priest and missionary, learned from the Indians of a great river further west, by them designated The Father of Waters, because of its immense volume, and resolved to see it. In the light canoe or boat used by the Indians, he made his way down the Illinois River to the Mississippi, which he entered in 1674 and continued down it as far as the mouth of the Arkansas. Returning to Quebec, he told of this immense river; and in 1683 La Salle and others, about twenty in number, made their way to it, descending it to the Gulf of Mexico and in honor of Louis the XIV, then King of France, La Salle named the country through which the Mississippi flowed, Louisiana. Deeply impressed with the future possibilities of this great water-way and the adjacent country through which it carried him, he returned to Canada and immediately sailed for France. Convincing the King of the magnificence of such an acquisition to his domain, by order of the King a fleet was fitted out and La Salle, with a number of emigrants, set sail for the mouth of the Mississippi to establish a colony in Louisiana. But not having correctly ascertained the bearing of the outlet of the river, he

failed to find it, and landed at some point west on the coast of Texas. His brother soon departed with the fleet to France, leaving La Salle and the colonists ashore in the new world. Discontent arising among the colonists, La Salle, in search of succor, started by land to Canada, but was assassinated by his followers, who disappeared in the wilds of Texas, and the colonists who remained at the place of landing were shortly afterwards made prisoners by a squad of Spanish soldiers from Mexico. This terminated for a number of years, all efforts of the French to colonize Louisiana.

The year 1698 is memorable in the history of Louisiana, for early in that year the brothers, Bienville and Iberville, entered the Gulf of Mexico with men and arms in search of the Mississippi, duly empowered by the King of France to take lawful possession thereof. Anchoring near Dauphine Island, they erected a small fort on Biloxi Bay, and for the first time, after so many years of delay and disappointment, the flag of France floated out in the breeze of the Mississippi valley, proclaiming to the world that France claimed legal ownership of the same. Early next year Bienville sailed up the river and established a garrison where now stands Fort St. Philip, since so famous in the history of this country. Possession thus being secured, in 1712 the first civil government in all this wide expanse of unexplored country was authoritatively proclaimed. The officer commissioned to administer this civil government, after

several years of perplexity and failure, resigned his commission and the civil authority was turned over to Bienville. With that energy and judgment which characterized the man, he pushed further up the river, and in 1718 erected a fort and laid out the city of New Orleans. Forty-five years thereafter, the inhabitants of Louisiana having heroically endured many perils and privations, battling with the natives, disease and famine, the French government, exhausted by her long wars and misrule, and deriving no income from this far western colony, ceded New Orleans and all the territory west of the Mississippi River to Spain. A Spanish emigration followed the cession, but it failed to bring peace and prosperity to the colony, or revenue to the Spanish Coffers. The French and Spaniards could not assimilate. Spain, in a short while, found the territory of Louisiana so costly a burthen that, in 1781, she gladly re-ceded it to France. But France was now in the clutches of Napoleon I, and delirious with revolution, was contending in battle with all the powers of Europe. The movement of her armies required money, and in 1803 she sold Louisiana to the United States for the sum of \$15,000,000.

Slowly moves the march of empire From the year 1535, when Cartier entered the St. Lawrence River, to the cession of Louisiana to the United States, 1803, elapsed a period of 268 years, filled with wildest romance, adventure and heroic endurance.

CHAPTER II.

LOUISIANA AS A TERRITORY—FIRST TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR—ADMITTED INTO THE UNION AS A STATE

The United States having assumed possession of this lately purchased territory. Congress, in 1804, in order to insure the people a stable government and as soon as possible reconcile the different races to the new order of affairs, divided the country into two divisions; designating the southern division as the Territory of Orleans, and the northern and western as the District of Missouri. Mr. Jefferson, then President of the United States, and during whose administration and by whose advice the purchase was made, appointed W. C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans, which position he held until 1812, administering the government so firmly and wisely that, in a great measure, the conflicting interests and prejudices of the several nationalities became reconciled and quieted.

The result of this wise administration of public affairs, by Gov. Claiborne, was to so rapidly induce emigration to the territory that in 1812 admission into the Union was claimed, and in that year, by formal act of Congress, the Territory of Orleans was admitted as the State of Louisiana, and W. C. C. Claiborne was duly elected her first governor.

It soon became apparent that the welfare of the people at the distant post of Natchitoches, on Red

River, and of the scattering settlements that were gradually forming further up the river and in the adjoining country, required attention; consequently, the territorial legislature, by act in 1804, incorporated the Parish of Natchitoches, embracing all that part of north Louisiana west of the parish of Ouachita to the Sabine river, then the dividing line between the United States and Mexico.

North Louisiana, at this time, was covered with a dense mass of brush-wood and interlacing vines—the home of the wolf, the bear, and the panther. Numbers of horses and cattle, the progenitors of which had wandered from the inhabited sections of the territory to this wilderness, ran free and wild. Several tribes of Indians were living here and there, now and then visited by tradesmen in search of peltry, and the country by hunters in search of game. The few earlier settlers that ventured into these wild regions had to fairly hew their way, for only a few devious trails and paths were to be found. Roads, there were none, save the road that connected Monroe and Natchitoches. Subsequently the United States, having established a garrison several hundred miles above on Red River, at Fort Towson, opened what was known as the Military Road, connecting this post with Natchitoches and Alexandria, for the purpose of transporting supplies to that far-off post. The settlements in those early days being so wide apart, and hunting and traffic with the Indians being the chief occupations, direct roads were impossible. But gradually,

settlement followed settlement, clearings increased, and from these clearings and the camps of the hunters, fires broke out sweeping over all the land, killing the tangled undergrowth or brush-wood, even destroying the foliage of lofty trees. In the following years fires again raged, consuming all the dead and fallen rubbish that then encumbered the ground. Being thus relieved of its heavy undergrowth or brush-wood, in its place forest grass and switch-cane sprang up, and in one season a mantle of green covered the nakedness of the earth. Then all North Louisiana appeared as an immense park, diversified with vast openings and vistas most enchanting. Game of every kind, peculiar to this region, increased rapidly, particularly the deer and the turkey. The buffalo came up from the wide prairies of the Attakapas, and in a few years North Louisiana became known as the Hunters' Paradise. The surveyor's chain was stretched across the land, and both surveyor and hunter carried back to the older settlements, and to the States east of the Mississippi River, such glowing descriptions of the beauty of the country, the fertility of its soil, its health, its abundance of game, the streams abounding in fish, and in winter every pond and lake crowded with all manner of water fowl, that a regularly increasing tide of emigration set in to this promised land. So rapid was this emigration that it became necessary to divide this immense parish of Natchitoches, for the seat of justice was too far to be reached by distant settlements, Consequently, in 1828, the

Legislature passed the following act incorporating the parish of Claiborne, naming it for Louisiana's first governor.

No. 42.

AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW PARISH IN THE PARISH
OF NATCHITOCHES, TO BE CALLED THE PARISH
OF CLAIBORNE.

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened:* That all that portion of territory within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning on the eastern bank of Red River, about fifty miles north-west of the town of Natchitoches. at the northern boundary line of Township thirteen; thence east, in the direction of said line, to the dividing line between Ranges three and four west; thence along said line, which shall form the western boundary of the parish of Ouachita, north to the Arkansas Territory; thence west to the main branch of Red River, and descending the same to the beginning, be and the same is erected into a new parish, to be called the parish of Claiborne.

OCT. LABRANCHE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

AD. BEAUVAIS,

President of the Senate.

Approved March 13, 1828:

H. JOHNSON,

Governor of the State of Louisiana.

CHAPTER III.

CLAIBORNE PARISH.

The parish having been thus incorporated, the paraphernalia of law and justice was put in motion by the election and appointment of all necessary officers. The first District Court, in all its majesty, embodied in the person of Judge Wilson, of Monroe, supported by Isaac McMahan as Sheriff, and Robert Cockran as Clerk, was convened in the house of John Murrell, whose house for years was the center of all public business for the new parish. Here law and justice were dispensed until the police jury, in its wisdom, selected a seat of justice. The place selected was on the premises of Samuel Russell, and was named Russellville, in honor of Mr. Russell who had offered liberal inducements to the jury for the benefit of the parish, and because this locality had become more central to the widely diffused population. When the District Court convened at this new domicile, Judge Overton was the presiding officer, Wm. McMahan was Clerk, and Isaac McMahan was yet Sheriff.

Russellville remained the parish site until 1836, when, the population having tended westward, the seat of justice was removed to Overton, on Bayou Dorcheat, near the place now known as Minden Lower Landing. This place being at the head of navigation, it was believed that the location would be per-

manent and a thriving commercial town would build up. But Overton proving to be unhealthy and subject to overflows, and the population having become preponderant in the eastern portion of the parish, in 1846 the seat of justice was removed to Athens, where it remained until the court-house, with all the records of the parish, was destroyed by fire—believed to have been the work of an incendiary. Then the police jury—for by this time the rapidly increasing population had disseminated itself about equally all over the parish—determined to locate the court-house centrally and permanently. After due investigation and proper consideration of all claims as to locality as well as the main interests involved, the site where Homer now stands was selected. These lands had been entered and were owned by Allen Harris and Tillinghast Vaughn, both of whom made liberal concessions to the parish for the public buildings, and to the people for schools and churches. Frank Vaughn, son of Tillinghast Vaughn, had the honor of naming the new parish town. The first District Court was held here in September, 1849, in a cheap board shanty erected for the purpose. Litigants and visitors encamped around in the woods, and when court was in session would stand at the windows and peep through the cracks to watch the proceedings of the august tribunal within, until fatigue or hunger or thirst would drive them to their camps for rest, or to the grocery for refreshments. Roland Jones was then

district Judge, Allen Harris, Sheriff and W. C. Copes, Clerk.

But Claiborne Parish being prosperous and her people increasing rapidly in numbers every year, it was determined to erect a suitable building in which justice should preside, and to execute this laudable intent, the necessary tax was levied, and in due time a commodious brick building, with all the proper offices, was erected. Jrdge Jones, supported by Sheriff Allen Harris and Clerk W. C. Copes, in 1850, held the first District term in this new court-house, then the finest structure in all North Louisiana.

Following the incorporation of Claiborne Parish was a marked increase of emigration—particularly about 1835—when steamboats, navigating Ouachita and Red Rivers, made access to the country less difficult. But, from 1840 to 1860, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee sent in their sons and daughters and slaves by hundreds and by thousands. In a few years roads, farms, villages, churches and school-houses were to be found all over the parish. Every trade and industry was represented; bountiful crops rewarded the farmer's toil without stint, and peace and prosperity blessed all the people.

This remarkable influx of populaion almost yearly demanded the formation of new parishes; consequently, out of the immense original Claiborne was formed, in their order of dates, the following parishes; Bossier, in 1843; Jackson, in 1845; Bienville,

in 1848; Webster, in 1871, and Lincoln, in 1873—thus reducing this once great parish to its present metes and bounds, to-wit: Union Parish on the east, Arkansas on the north, Webster Parish on the west, and Lincoln on the south, leaving her a total area of 778 square miles, embraced in five townships and subdivided into eight wards; Ward 1 has an area of 120 square miles; ward 2, 110; ward 4, 72; ward 5, 72; ward 6, 83; ward 7, 104, and ward 8, 107. And yet old Claiborne, although so reduced from the granduer of her original area, has not been shorn of all her glory; she yet proudly maintains her position as the banner parish of North Louisiana, and so she will remain, for her foundation is of iron, and she can and will conquer all adversity.



CHAPTER IV.

CLIMATE, HEALTH, PHYSICAL RESOURCES, ETC., OF
CLAIBORNE PARISH.

Claiborne is one of the old parishes of the State, having been organized as a parish in 1828. Previous to that time it formed a part of Natchitoches parish. When organized, Claiborne contained, in addition to its present area, all of what is now known as Bienville and Webster Parishes, and a part of what is now Lincoln. It now extends from Union Parish on the east, along the southern boundary of the State of Arkansas, to Webster Parish on the west, and is bounded on the south by Bienville and Webster Parishes, and on the southeast by Lincoln Parish. It will thus be seen that Claiborne occupies about a central position in the northern tier of parishes, and is beyond question the highest as well as the healthiest portion of the State of Louisiana.

The average altitude of Louisiana, as set forth in Toner's Dictionary of Elevations of the United States, is 75 feet above the level of the sea. This is a somewhat lower average level than that of any of the other States, except Florida, which is put down at 60 feet above the sea in its average. Claiborne Parish has the highest average elevation of any parish in the State, being about 200 feet above sea level. Still this is a rather low average as compared with the country

north and west. There is an impression with some that high places are the most healthy, but this does not always follow, and is not the testimony of experience here in Louisiana. Sometimes the lowest places in the same neighborhood have had quite the advantage in point of health.

In the Old World some healthful and fertile localities are *below* the level of the ocean—as the valley of the Jordan, more than 1000 feet below the surface of the Mediterranean Sea, the shores of the Caspian Sea, and portions of Holland, reclaimed from the ocean by its dykes. Settlers here from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and other States, say they find Claiborne Parish as healthy as the countries from which they came.

It is never visited by the severe epidemics of yellow fever and small-pox, which are so fatal in the parishes bordering on the rivers, especially in the cities and towns on their banks; nor is it subject to those dangerous malarial diseases, such as swamp fever, typhoid fever, etc., which are such a scourge to the lower country; in fact, it is singularly free from epidemics and malarial disorders of all kinds, and will compare favorably with any portion of the United States in point of health. The only epidemics ever known in the parish is measles, and that of a very mild type, very rarely causing death.

Area in square-miles, 778; in acres, 447,920; amount of land vacant, 53,660 acres; population in 1880, 18,857—whites and blacks equally divided;

amount of taxable property, as per assessment roll for last year. \$1,479,060; rate of taxation, 11 mills on the dollar; area in cultivation, 126,000 acres; valuation of land subject to taxation, \$743,317; value of stock, \$293,835.

The conditions of the atmosphere in its degrees of temperature and moisture are items which affect organized life, animal and vegetable. Since the temperature of the atmosphere falls, as distance from the equator increases, one degree of depression for every added degree of latitude; and since, moreover, the thermometer falls one degree for every 300 feet of altitude, Louisiana being comparatively near the equator and so little above the sea level, might be thought, by residents of Northern States, to be very warm; but there are other influences which disturb this natural order of things which must be taken into account before the truth is reached. There are dozens of rivers and hundreds of smaller streams coursing over the surface—there, too, lakes and other bodies of water are numerous. The evaporations from these streams and lakes, and from the Gulf of Mexico on the south, rapidly consume or absorb the heat of the sun, just as water sprinkled on the floor absorbs the heat of a room, and this process is more rapid because, as the vapor rises, taking with it all the heat it can render insensible, breezes from the Gulf, as from the plains of the northwest, take it away and supply other air to be filled with other vapor performing the same office in the cooling process, so that,

as a matter of fact, the thermometer rises higher in summer in New York, Boston and Philadelphia than in any portion of Louisiana. Sun-stroke, so frequent and fatal in the cities, and, indeed in the country, north, is never known in Louisiana. There is, also, another item not to be overlooked in seeking the causes of a higher temperature in summer in countries north of Louisiana—it is, that the days are longer in summer as we proceed northward, and the nights shorter. There is, therefore, less time for throwing off or radiating the heat received from the sun, until his return with other supplies.

I regret that there are no tables of mean relative humidity and temperature from which I can quote, for the information of the possible northern reader, on this important subject. But an experience of thirty years in this part of Louisiana enables the writer to say that the thermometer very rarely rises as high as 100 degrees in summer, and as rarely falls as low as 25 degrees in winter.

As already noticed, the thermometer does not rise quite so high in Louisiana as in countries further north, but this is not the whole advantage. The temperature of the animal system is ordinarily above that of the atmosphere. The breezes are constantly removing from contact with the body the partially heated particles of air and supplying cooler particles, which absorb the heat, and the cooling sensation is in proportion to the rapidity of the process. Such breezes are a constant and enduring feature of Louisiana's summer climate,

occurring with almost daily unvarying regularity. It is this feature that enables a man or beast to exist during a long summer day under our semi-tropical sun, without distress or danger; and it is this too, perhaps, which accounts for the total absence of sun strokes among men, and hydrophobia among dogs. It would, perhaps, not be well to omit mention in this connection, of the fact that we have some cold weather in Louisiana. This country is subject to occasional cold waves brought down upon it by the northwest winds, but they are of short duration; lasting not generally longer than three or four days, as the wind quickly veers round, our Gulf breezes come, and our normal winter weather resumes sway, which is never cold enough to require shelter for stock, or to make fuel for heating purposes a matter of consideration.

The surface of the country is undulating, hills and valleys running in every direction; or, perhaps, it might more properly be described as rolling, as the hills are only gentle elevations, never precipitous and high as in the States north and east. This rolling or undulating surface gives rise to numerous water courses, creeks, bayous, etc., which drain the country in every direction, and whose currents are generally sufficiently swift to carry off the greatest rain-fall, so that we have very little of what is known as swamp and overflowed land, with their ponds and lagoons of stagnant water, breeding miasma, malaria, mosquitos, buffalo gnats and other ills and pests to man and

beast. In this respect, Claiborne Parish is blessed above almost any other part of the State, the greater part of which, as is well known, is not sufficiently rolling to drain well, and in consequence the slow, tortuous water courses failing to carry off the water fast enough, it spreads out over the adjacent low-lying country, where a great part of it is left in ponds, lakes and lagoons, which, under the influence of our warm summer sun, doubtless gives rise to the various malarial diseases and insect pests for which Louisiana has acquired quite a reputation.

The writer has often been surprised at the opinion held by residents of other States, particularly the Northern States, in regard to Louisiana. They seem, in many cases, to regard the whole of Louisiana as one vast frog-pond, interspersed with occasional dry patches or spots of land on which the inhabitants eke out a miserable, chill-shaken existence; indeed, they would be surprised to find a resident of the South, outside the cities and larger towns where, as they think, man has improved natural conditions, who was at all robust or in ways like a man. They seem to think he should conform very nearly, both in his physical development and habits of life, to his most intimate friend, the frog. In fact, nothing could be more erroneous, or further from the truth, than the idea entertained of Louisiana generally by residents of other States, and this idea has originated and been fostered by the inaccurate descriptions of geographers and by the written accounts of travelers along our water

courses, which, until late years, have been our only highways of trade, and these travelers, added to their lack of means of observation, have been, to say the least, very casual observers, and seem in most cases to have taken a jaundiced view of everything.

It is true, and very proper to be noted here, that we have what is called malaria in Louisiana, but we have very little of it in the rolling woodlands of Claiborne. Through about the center of this parish runs the ridge, or water divide, which separates the waters of the Red and Ouachita Rivers—the water courses on the right, or west, emptying into Red River, and those on the left, or east, into Ouachita. We have no streams which are navigable within the boundaries of the parish, though there are several having their rise here which are navigable in their lower courses. Our natural scenery, though not perhaps as picturesque as that of mountainous countries, is sufficiently varied and interesting to impart a sense of pleasure to any one not entirely blind to nature's beauties. We have winding streams, babbling brooks, gushing springs many-hued forest scenes, birds with brilliant plumage, and merry songsters; we have rocks here, too, and minerals; strange as it may seem to those who only know Louisiana from hearsay. No poet's fancy has ever delineated in measured song the beauties of our fields and forests; no artist's pencil or brush has transferred to canvass the beauties of our landscapes; but they are here, and will abide their time. In this



respect, as in many others, this part of the State is verily a terra incognito.

As to the soil of Claiborne, it would be impossible within the limits of this book, or within the limits prescribed to this part of it, to do full justice to this important feature—important because the soil is as yet our country's only stock in trade, its only resource. We are emphatically an agricultural people. Everything is dependent directly and exclusively upon the productions of the soil—when this fails everything else fails—when the cultivation of the soil becomes unprofitable, everything else becomes unprofitable. Hence, the importance which attaches in a work of this kind to the nature and quality of the soil. Leibig, the celebrated German Agricultural Chemist, says that the poorest soils, even the Limeburg heath of his country, contains enough of mineral plant-food for centuries of profitable tillage, but that it is "locked up" in such chemical combination as to render it inaccessible to plants, except in a very slight degree. If this be so, and it doubtless is so, for Leibig knew whereof he spoke in matters of this kind, it would seem that the quality of the soil is not a matter of such very great importance had we but the key to this chest, the means of unlocking this chemical combination, and so rendering this inexhaustible supply accessible to plants; but here is the rub, we have it not, nor are we likely to have it soon, if ever. The farmer in North Louisiana is obliged, in the main, to take his soil just as he finds it, to accept the return it makes for his pa-

tient toil, of its own free will, without the aid which scientific discoveries have rendered possible in more favored cases ; for he is, in most cases, ignorant of the elements with which his soil is supplied, or in which it is deficient—he knows nothing of the chemical combinations necessary to the growth of the plants he wishes to cultivate ; and even if he possessed this scientific knowledge, he has not the means at hand to render it practicably useful. So the best he can do, is to make use of such fertilizers as he may have at hand which observation and experience tell him will be beneficial to his plants. He is an experimenter, groping in the dark even the little way which his circumstances will admit of his going in this direction. The supply of fertilizers on an average farm in Claiborne parish, known to be of value, is so limited that a large part of the area in cultivation must necessarily go from year to year without fertilization ; so that the quality of the soil is an item of the first importance. When I tell the practical geologist that the soil of Claiborne Parish is not alluvial in its character, he says at once, then it belongs to the *tertiary* formation, or to the *tertiary* geological epoch, and is formed in the main from the disintegration of sandstone. Your soil, says he, must be largely composed of sand. Quite true, sand seems to be a predominant constituent of our soil ; but, I say to him, we have “red lands” in Claiborne—lands in which sand is not at all conspicuous, as an element. They are, says he, somewhat sandy in their character, and are formed from the dis-

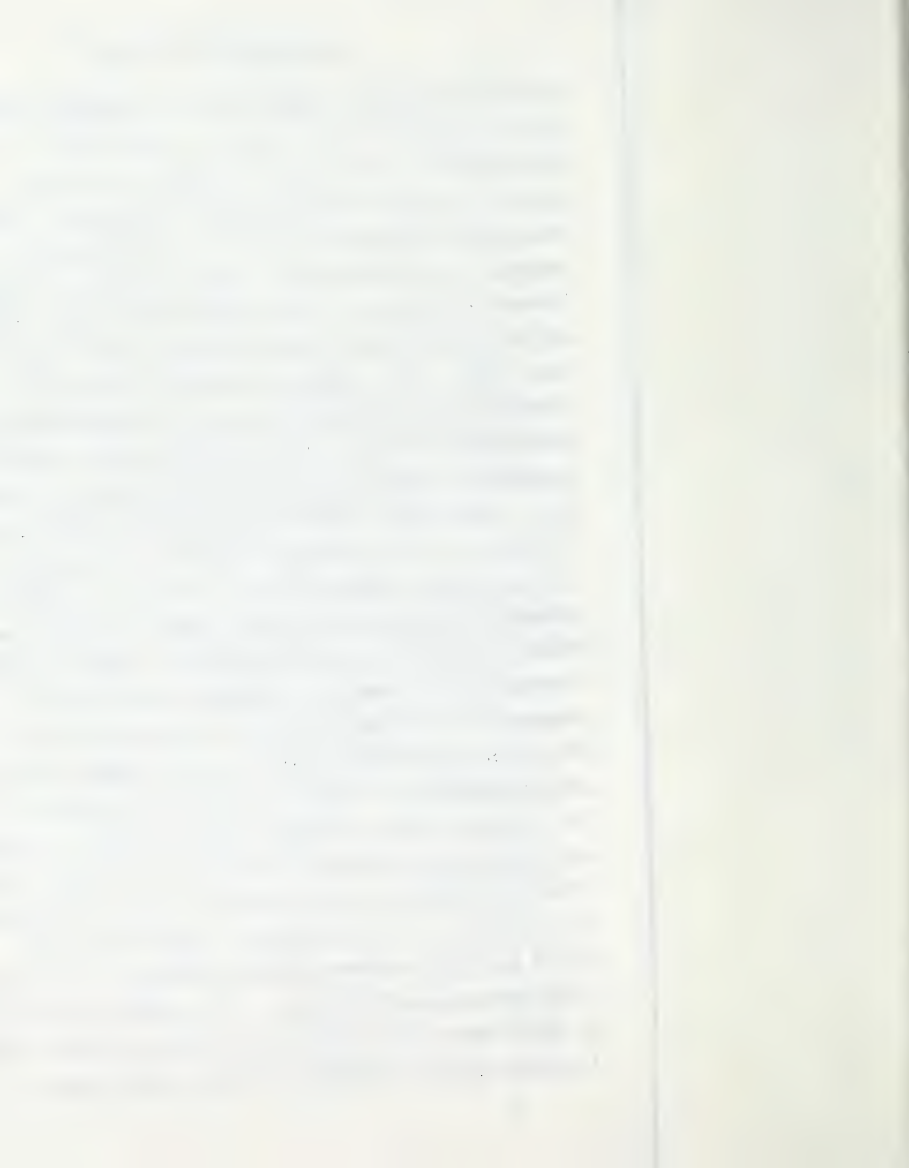


integration of red sandstone to which iron has given the coloring matter ; such soils ought to be rich in the phosphates of iron and profitable to cultivate, as these elements are valuable as a plant-food. Right again ; our red lands are profitably cultivated—on them crops do well, to which the phosphates of lime and iron are a vital necessity. The practical farmer, or plant grower, knowing little of chemistry or geology judges of land by the natural growth upon it—the trees which nature has planted there, and which have flourished and taken possession of the soil in its wild state. He sees the oak, the ash, the hickory, the walnut, the black-jack—he knows that from their ashes good soap is made ; he may not know that these ashes are rich in the phosphates of lime, so valuable as plant-food, but he does know that where these trees grow, corn, cotton and potatoes will grow, and may be profitably grown. He knows, too, when he sees the character of the soil, that it is porous, loose and mellow, that it will readily yield up what elements of plant-food it possesses, that it is generous in its nature and easy of cultivation. The practical farmer of Claiborne knows these things and makes practical and profitable use of such knowledge, but he does not know often, how, by several successive years of profitable tillage, he has robbed his generous soil of the greater part of its available plant-food, and that he has to replace what he has recklessly taken away, to reinvigorate his exhausted soil.

In fact, he does not seem to be aware that these



years of constant cultivation are making fearful inroads upon his bank account—his stock in trade—the available plant-food in his soil; does not seem to know, or acts as though he did not know, that these elements of plant-food are his only resource, the sole reason why his lands are worth anything whatever to himself or others. If he thinks about these things at all, he thinks that lands are cheap, and so goes ahead, year after year, without counting the cost, even to himself in the end, leaving out of consideration altogether the heritage of his children, the needs of the generation which is to come after him. In this case, the “sins of the fathers are indeed visited upon the children to the third and fourth generations.” The rule generally followed is, as fast as one field is exhausted it is turned out, the forest cut away and another enclosed to go through the same process of treatment; so that our domain will soon be largely composed of old fields turned out to grow up in pines, for it is a peculiarity of our soil that the natural growth does not return to it after it has been treated in this way, that natural growth which eventually enriches it and brings it back to its original state of available fertility, but young pines take possession of it, and they, as is well known, add little to the fertility of soil by the decay of their foliage, as is the case with numerous other plants. It might be well to enter a little more into detail as to the average farmers’ methods and the success which attend them. When



he decides upon the precise plot of eminent domain which he will next lay waste, his first step is to seek out all the timber growing upon it which can be converted into rails—such trees are felled and converted into rails; next he cuts off the under-growth, which is made into brush-heaps, to be burned when dry; then cuts down the saplings and smaller trees, whose bodies are cut into convenient lengths for hauling home, and whose laps go to the brush-heaps; he next chops around all trees left standing, thus “deadening them,” as it is called, as this circular chopping through the sap part of the tree prevents the free circulation of the sap, thus killing the tree which is left standing to take its chances against decay and the prevailing winds—its falling is only a question of time. He hauls out everything available for fuel, thus frequently getting enough fuel for a year or two from a small plot of ground; next he cuts all logs left on the ground into convenient lengths which, with the help of his neighbors, he makes into heaps on the ground, and into these heaps go all refuse from the fuel selected. The brush with log-heaps often cover almost the entire surface of the ground. His clearing is now done, and is ready for the grand burning as soon as the brush and logs are sufficiently dry. If the clearing is done in the summer or fall, the burning may be done in winter, but if the clearing is done in winter the burning is not generally done until in the spring, just before planting time. After this new field is burned off, he proceeds to surround it with a “cross-



fence" of rails, when it is ready for the plow. The farmer frequently realizes enough corn or cotton from this new field the first year to pay for its clearing, though it generally happens that very little is obtained for the first year's cultivation, but the second year's cultivation generally yields excellent crops—a bale of cotton or thirty bushels of corn per acre being frequently realized on uplands the second year, but its maximum is not generally reached till the third year. This field is then kept in constant cultivation in crops which take all from the soil and return very little, or nothing, to it until, by a constantly diminishing yield, it is found no longer profitable for cultivation; then it too, is laid aside, and another inroad made upon the forest.

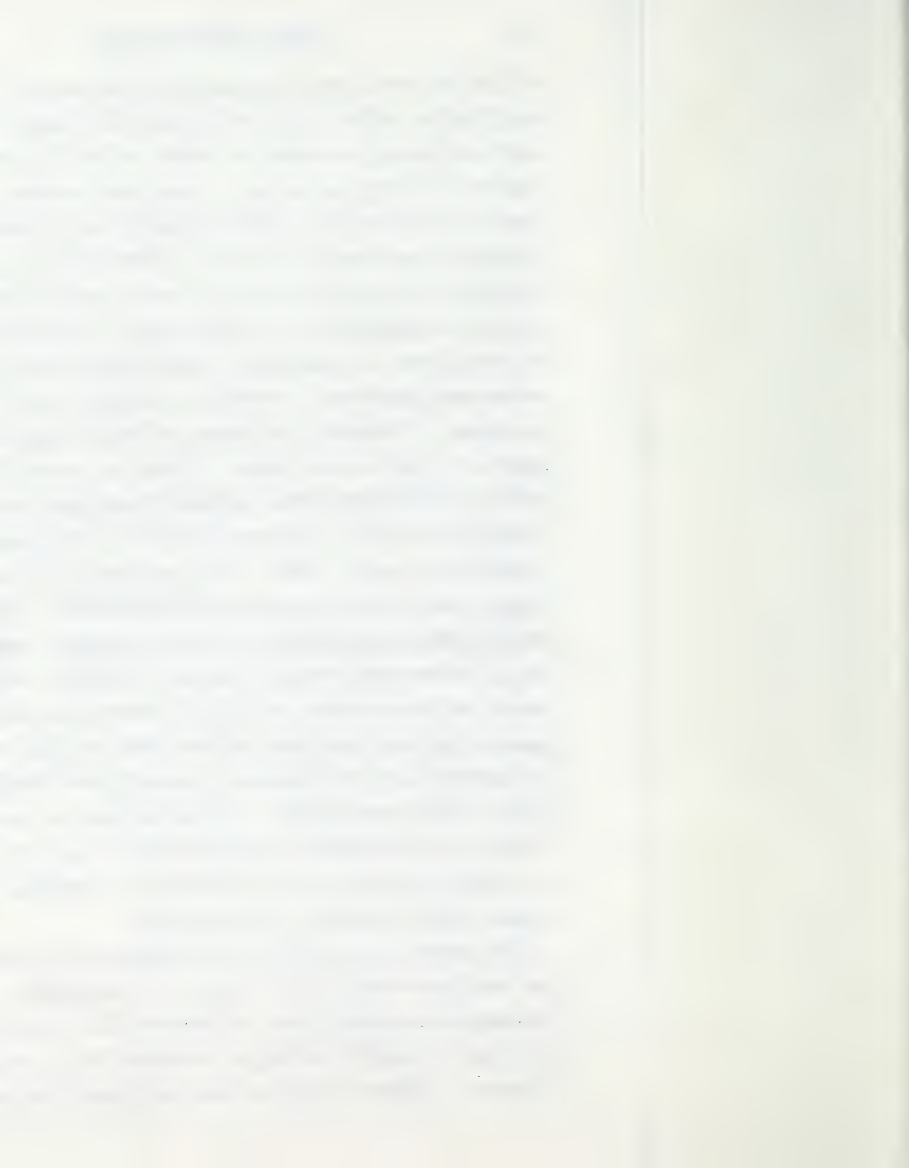
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Nowhere in the United States, perhaps, can more generous soil be found than the rolling woodlands of Claiborne Parish—nowhere a soil which more readily yields up its elements of plant-food, or is easier of cultivation. There are richer and more durable lands elsewhere, but taking into consideration certainty of yield and ease of cultivation, there are none, I venture to say, which will better repay careful tillage and proper management than they, or more worthy of the attention of the intelligent agriculturist. These lands are almost all adapted to the highest fertilizing; they can, by proper management and very little cost, be kept at their maximum yield—indeed, they can be made better every year instead of being made poorer, as is now too often the case. I have heretofore spoken



of the better class of uplands in Claiborne ; these, as I said before, often yield, with careful tillage and without fertilizers, as much as a bale of cotton or 30 or 40 bushels of corn per acre. Corn and cotton being the leading productions of the country the value of land is generally estimated by its production of these two staples ; but there are other lands not so productive ; others in cultivation on which half of the above yield is considered a good one ; others there are, too, which seem comparatively worthless, except for the timber on them. But this last class of lands form but a small part of Claiborne's area. There is very little land within the limits of the parish which may not be profitably cultivated, and upon all of it fertilizers may be profitably used. This fact has been demonstrated again and again, in numerous instances. The surface soil, though unusually light and porous, has underlying it a firm and compact subsoil which is within easy reach of plant-roots, and which serves the double purpose of giving the plant a firm hold on the earth, and of preventing the leaking through of fertilizers applied to the surface soil. This subsoil is not entirely of clay or aluminum, as the chemists call it, which is not food for plants, but is found to contain, in many cases, a fair amount of plant-food.

The staple commodities of this part of the country for markets outside the State, it is expected, will soon enlarge in number, but at present they are extremely few, and might perhaps be summed up in one word—*Cotton*. Cotton is almost our only crop for sale. It is



as we say here, "our only money crop." The history of agriculture in the United States, and perhaps in other parts of the civilized world, has always taught one important lesson which impoverished farms and empty purses are slowly urging the present generation to heed. It is this—that no exclusively agricultural community can ever be prosperous while it confines itself to the production of a single commodity. No matter how well the soil may be adapted to its production, the climate and natural conditions suited to its growth, that country or community which links its fortunes to that of a single plant, that stakes its all upon its successful culture, will be and must needs be always poor and often finds itself in sad straits. Experience proves this lesson wherever such a course has been pursued. The most unobservant traveler through a country where cotton is cultivated to the exclusion of other crops suited to the soil and climate, or where tobacco, hemp, or any other single plant reigns supreme, has had this truth forced upon him by the worn out lands, the deserted homesteads, the dilapidated fences and farm houses, the utter absence of progress and enterprise, and the scenes of thriftlessness and want which meet his eyes on every side.

While cotton is now almost the only thing produced for market, the soil of Claiborne Parish is admirably adapted to the production of a variety of other crops, which might profitably take the place of cotton in part. The sweet potato is, for house use, a universal crop in this part

of the State, and seems to be in its natural home. It is easily propagated from the roots, sprouts or vines, and with a little care in the preparation of the ground and subsequent cultivation, returns an immense yield, often as much as 300 bushels per acre. From its easy propagation and cultivation, its large yield and the variety and excellence of the dishes prepared from it, it is one of the indispensable crops for home use, but has not hitherto been raised for markets outside the State. This is due, doubtless, to lack of transportation, but now that we have a railroad within easy reach and are likely to have another soon, this impediment will be removed, and we may expect to see the sweet potato take its place among the products of the country and with great profit to the farmer.

The Irish potato, or "white potato," is accredited as a native of Chili and Peru, and was introduced into North America by the Spaniards, from whence it was, in 1586, carried by Sir Walter Raleigh to England, and perhaps acquired its name of "Irish potato" from the extent to which it was grown in Ireland. This tuber ought soon to take a prominent place among the very profitable crops of North Louisiana. There is probably nothing that the soil produces which can be more profitably grown than the Irish potato.

Field peas of many varieties grow to perfection here, and are often a valuable adjunct to the farmers' corn crop, as they furnish excellent food for all kinds of domestic animals, including man himself. Their cultivation is receiving a large share of atten-

tion now, which is a sign of better times, as besides its valuable qualities as a food, its culture is very beneficial to the land on which it is grown. The pea is largely an air feeder and hence may be grown on very poor land and be made to return much more to the soil than it takes from it, and thus increase fertility. It is found very advantageous to land to sow it in peas and plow under while the vines are green.

Wheat does not seem to do well anywhere in Louisiana, though it has been tried at various times on the uplands of Claiborne; its culture has never been attended with marked success. Sometimes its yield has been satisfactory, more frequently however it fails.

Oats are a staple production of the country. If sown in the fall they rarely fail to amply repay the farmer for all the care and attention bestowed upon them. Barley and rye, also do well here but are not at present largely planted, not as much as formerly.

Sorghum has been at various times experimentally grown, and is at present grown in small quantities. It grows very luxuriantly, and is of certain yield if properly cultivated, but has been regarded as of doubtful profit. Its tops or seed are known to be excellent food for stock.

Garden products are an essential feature of every household in the parish; no home is complete without its vegetable garden, the products of which go far toward furnishing the family with wholesome food throughout the entire year. Every variety of garden vegetable found in this latitude does well here,

beans, English peas, cabbage, tomatoes, turnips; onions, beets, lettuce and numerous others grow very luxuriantly, and nothing pays better or is more pleasing to the eye than the well kept gardens in Claiborne Parish.

The timber supply is sufficient to meet the demands of the population, as it naturally increases, for many generations. Pine, several kinds of oak, sweet and black gum, hickory, walnut, ash, maple, iron wood, persimmon and many other varieties are found in easy reach of nine-tenths of the farms. There are thousands of acres once in cultivation worn out and now left to grow up or wash away, that are covered with young pines, etc. Here and on parts of farms too wet to cultivate, grow delicious blackberries, bushels of which may be seen at a glance; dewberries in luxuriant plenty are found in these old fields. These, together with various other berries, such as the different kinds of haws, huckleberries, paw paws, (the banana of the temperate zones) etc., may be had in plenty for the mere trouble of gathering; chinapins, walnuts and hickory nuts are equally as numerous. Fruits of all kinds peculiar to this latitude grow to perfection, and a failure of the crop is rare. Flowers, native and exotic, are reared with little trouble, grow luxuriantly, and frost, except with the most tender varieties, seldom requires that they be housed or protected.

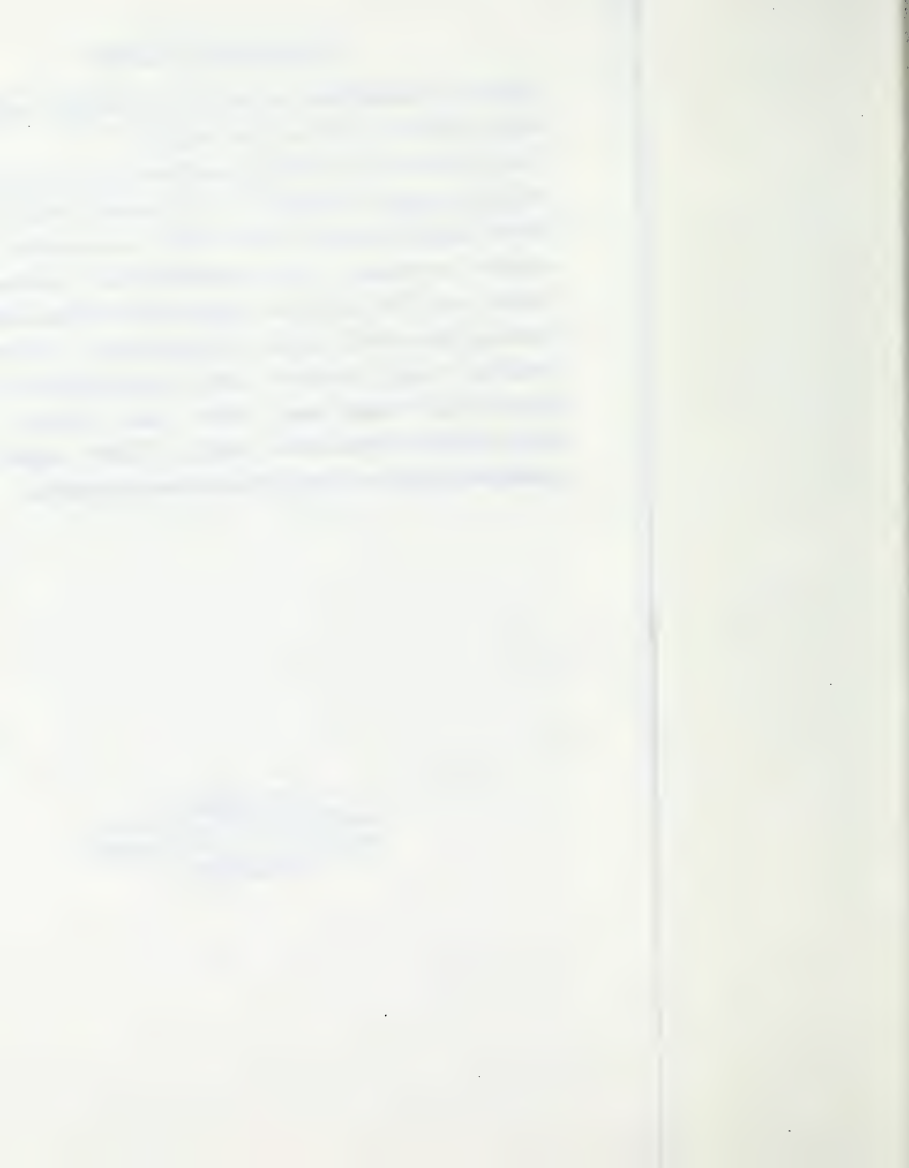
Game of the smaller species, such as squirrels, birds, hare, etc., are numerous, but deer and turkey, though



once very numerous, are now rare, having sought more thinly settled parts of the country.

Melons of every variety, from the classic pumpkin to the primitive gourd, abound in Claiborne, and of the very finest quality, among which the watermelon deserves special mention. It is probable that nowhere in the world can this fruit be grown more successfully than here on the sandy lands of Claiborne. It is extremely prolific, finely flavored and often grows to immense size. The writer has often seen them weighing fifty pounds, sometimes sixty. They might be very profitably grown here for northern markets.

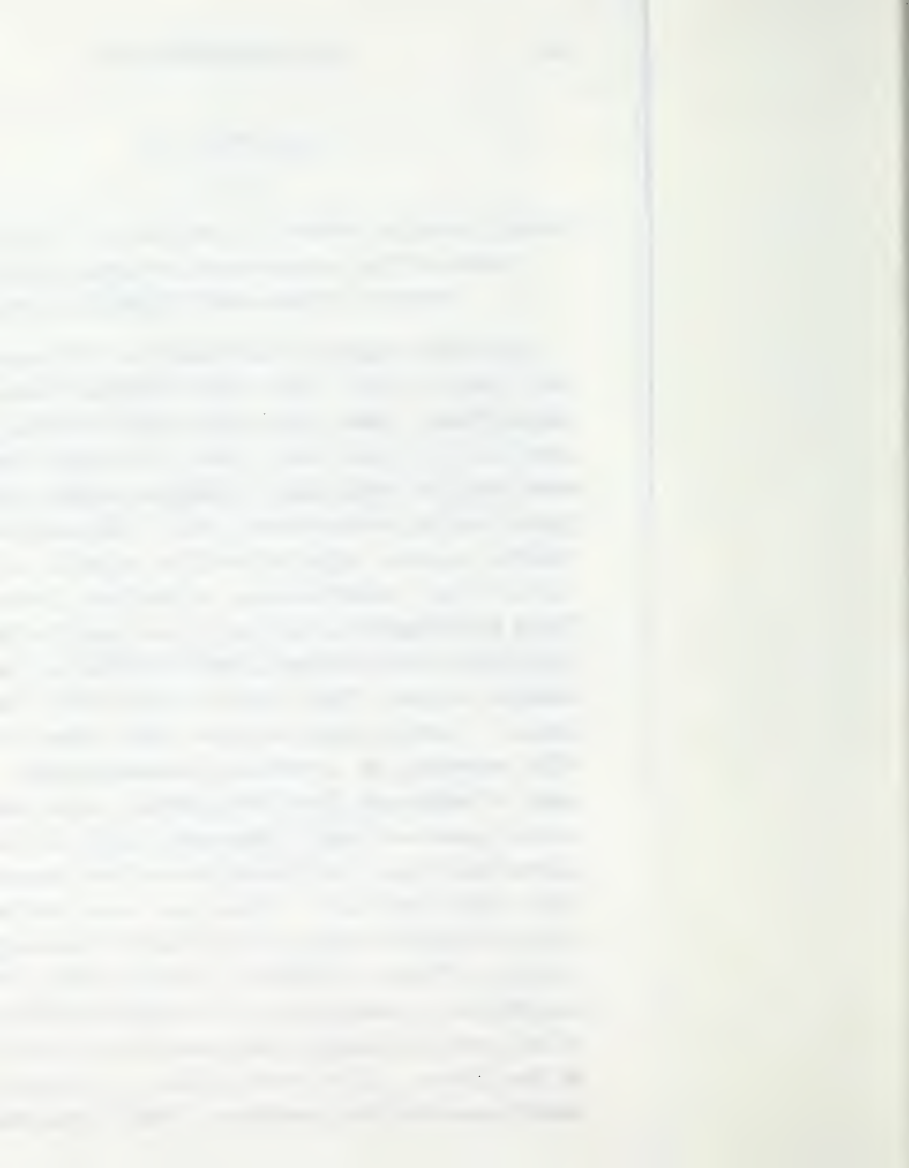




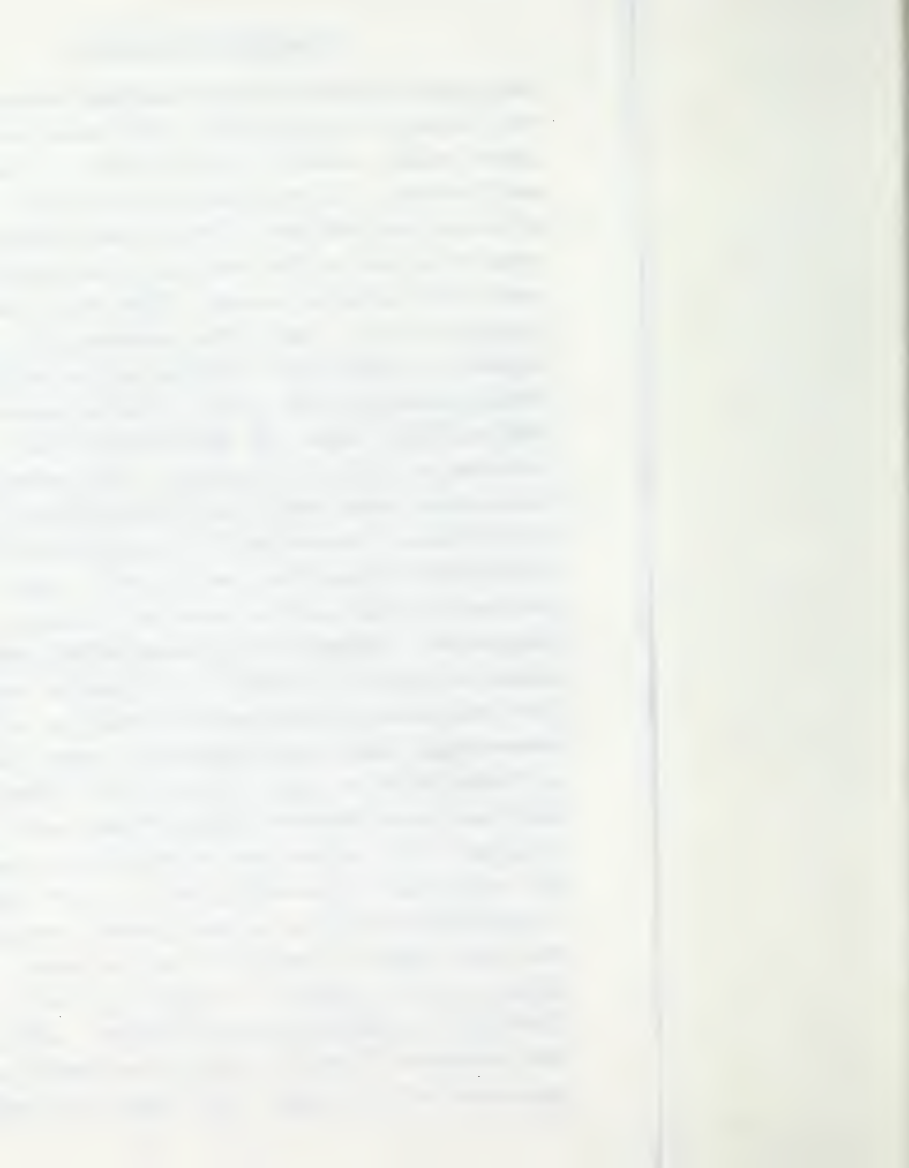
CHAPTER V.

EARLY DAYS IN NORTH LOUISIANA, BY AN OLD SETTLER—WILD APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY—FOREST FIRES—SETTLEMENTS, ETC.

In the latter part of the winter of 1818 could have been seen in the Horse Shoe bend of Cumberland River, Tenn., about three miles from Carthage, a flat boat tied by ropes to the shore. On this boat was a man and his wife, some children, a few household goods, cooking utensils and a rifle. That man was John Murrell, starting with his family in search of a home in the far west, somewhere up in the Red River valley. Early in the morning the lines that held the flat boat to the shore were cut loose, and John Murrell, wife and children turned their backs to their old Tennessee home. Floating down the river, they joined at Nashville, according to a previous understanding, a company of emigrants that were bound to the same unknown promised land. Disposing of his old flat boat, Murrell and family got aboard one of two barges, or, as then called, keel boats. There were about ten families, to-wit: that of Wallace, Clark, Ward, Manning, Dyer, (big Joe), Hutson, Robinson, Duty, Dooly, Peterson and Murrell. Descending the Cumberland, they entered the great Mississippi and floated down to the mouth of Red River. After resting here a few days, they slowly ascended the wonderful Red River, and after



many days of toil and much loss of time in working their way through the great raft and among monster alligators, safely landed at Long Prairie, in the Arkansas Territory. All were charmed with the country — it was so fresh and new — but it was a solitude. The sound of an axe or rifle was not to be heard, nor the smoke of a cabin to be seen. They were alone, in a primeval world. One of the company, H. Robinsen, became so dissatisfied because of the wild and unbroken solitude of the country, that he alone with his wife and child, made off through the wild woods for his home in dear old Tennessee. The others, having more nerve, spent some time in hunting out localities to suit them. Murrell and Wallace pitched their camp on the bank of the river, put up rude board shelters, cut down a small patch of cane and planted corn and vegetables. Murrell having about \$100 in cash, determined to invest it in cattle; so in June he took a trail that lead down to Natchitoches Parish; for it must be remembered that the only pass ways were the hunter or Indian trails, or paths. On the trail Murrell traveled there were, between Long Praire and Natchitoches, only two cabins, one of which was vacant, for the man (Bosel) who built it, left in a few days after completing it for Texas, or the Spanish country, as it was then called. The other was the home of Isaac Alden and Mrs. Johnson, the place now known as the Bools place, eight miles east of Minden. Alden and his wife entreated Murrell to bring his family and take possession of this cabin. But Murrell wanted cattle,



so he went ahead on his cow hunt, south of Natchitoches found and bought ten cows and calves. On his arrival home with his cattle, he was horror struck to find a number of his family sick with fever. This he could not stand, and at once determined to get his family away from the river. The deserted cabin on the Natchitoches trail, the kindly suggestion of the Aldens, promptly came to mind, and he resolved so soon as his family was able to travel, to leave the poisonous Red River and find a shelter in this lonely cabin. His wealth was not great, consisting of two ponies, ten cows and calves, one dog, one rifle and an axe, but of far more value to him than all else, a brave wife and six dependent children. August 6, 1818, he stopped in front of that vacant cabin on the place now belonging to Wm. H. Maxey, and beneath its humble shelter, thankfully placed his wearied wife and children. Letting Mrs. Johnson know that his family was in the Bosel cabin, she immediately attended to his wants, letting him have meat, bread, corn, etc., and showing every delight at knowing she had a neighbor within twelve miles, for up to this time her nearest neighbors were at Campte, miles below on Red River. As neighbors, we mean such as a civilized, Christian woman could welcome. We could almost daily see Indians, for there were many of them in the country. They lived in small villages, and moved from place to place as their hunting expeditions required. But these Indians were inoffensive, committing no depredations on stock or other property. One of these villages was



on the land now owned by Col. John Kimbell, and among these roving people was a half-breed Cherokee, who had fled from his people for killing one of the tribe.

Away from the malarial Red River, Murrell's family soon regained good health, save the babe, which in a few days left the lonely cabin a corpse.

Murrell being possessed of a fair supply of native genius, as well as plenty of pluck, at once went to work and in a day or two had rigged up and in fine working order a first-class Armstrong mill. This mill, though simple in appearance, combined several of the mechanical powers, operating through a spring pole to a pestle in a mortar box, or hole burnt into the end of a heavy block of wood. The spring pole is worked up and down by hand—hence the name “Armstrong mill.” The sifting apparatus of this mill was made of a dry deer skin from which the hair had been shaved, stretched tightly over a broad wooden hoop, and then burned full of holes with a hot spindle. It was a great success; far surpassing the common hand pestle and mortar. However, two or three years thereafter, he succeeded in getting an improved Armstrong, a steel mill, which proved to be a great saving of labor, and made a better meal than the old fashioned spring pole.

The country then was almost entirely covered with a dense thicket of brush, briars and vines. Cane was abundant on all the streams and abutting hill points, but fire breaking out and spreading all over the land,



killed this mass of brush, while a second fire cleaned off all the face of the land, leaving it an open, beautiful country. You could see a cow or deer as far as the eye could reach through the intervening living timber. New grasses sprang up, the wild pea vine and switch cane, and a better range for farmer's cattle, hogs, deer and turkey was never seen.

Murrell cultivated his first crop with the hoe, both his ponies having died. The woods abounding with all manner of game, he got his main supply therefrom. A turkey for dinner required only a few minutes hunt, venison steak was to be had at any hour, and bear in the proper season was readily converted into the best of bacon. Wolves, too, abounded. It was common to see them, of moonlight nights, traveling around the house or cow pen. Mrs. Murrell left her churn at the creek-side one night and the wolves carried it off into a tree top fifty yards away and knawed it to pieces. They were fearful on young pigs and calves.

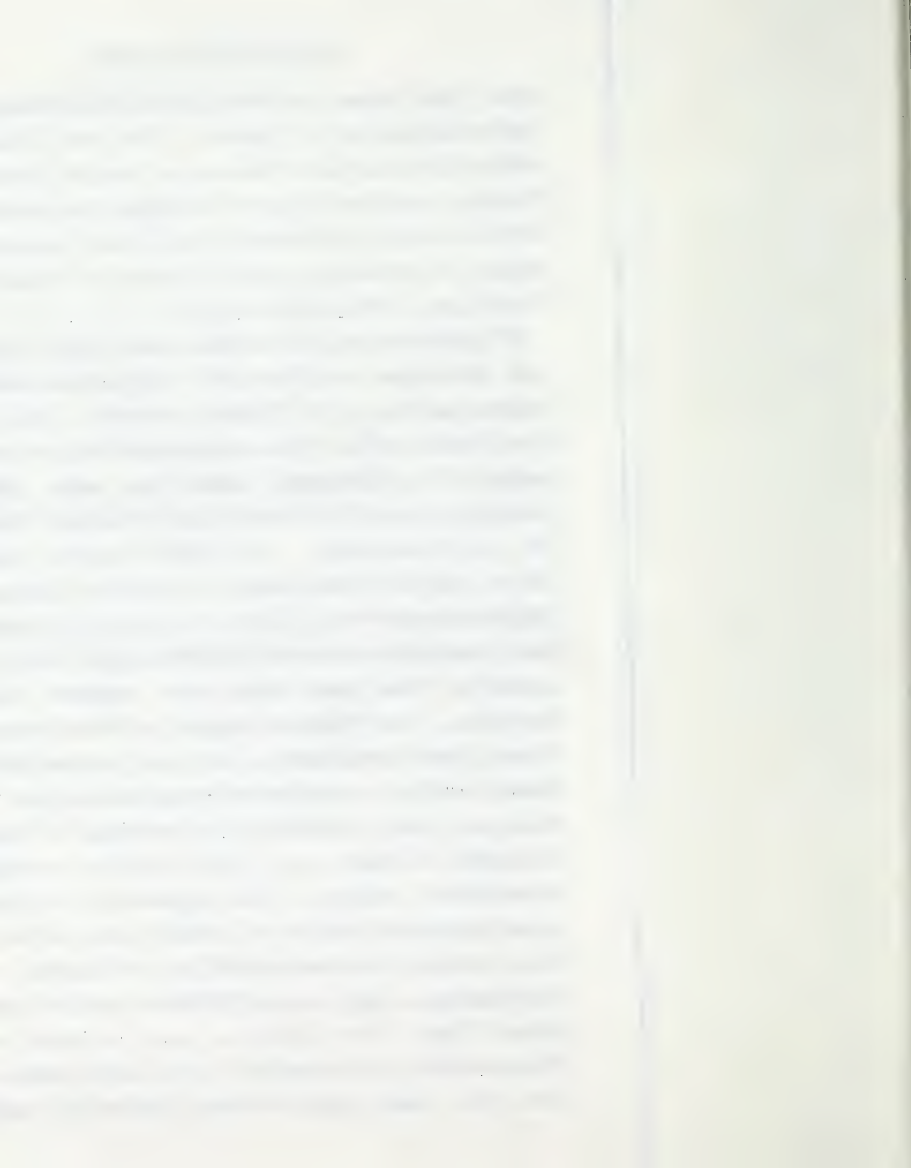
As previously stated, there were no roads, but in lieu thereof were two trails leading through the country — one from Mt. Prairie, Ark., to Natchitoches, the other from Long Prairie, Ark., to Monroe, or Ouachita Parish. Natchitoches Parish, in which was then embraced Claiborne Parish, extended from Rapides north to Arkansas Territory, and from Ouachita Parish on the east, to the Spanish country (Texas) on the west.

In the fall of 1818 several families moved into the country. Mrs. Long settled where is now Haynes-



ville. Her house, or cabin, stood about where now is the residence of A. Brown. Her son, Davis Long, settled the place now known as Long's Springs, near Minden, and lived there a bachelor for years; but in 1836 he took unto himself a wife, and raised a clever family of children; among them we recollect Miss Lucy Long. She is now dead.

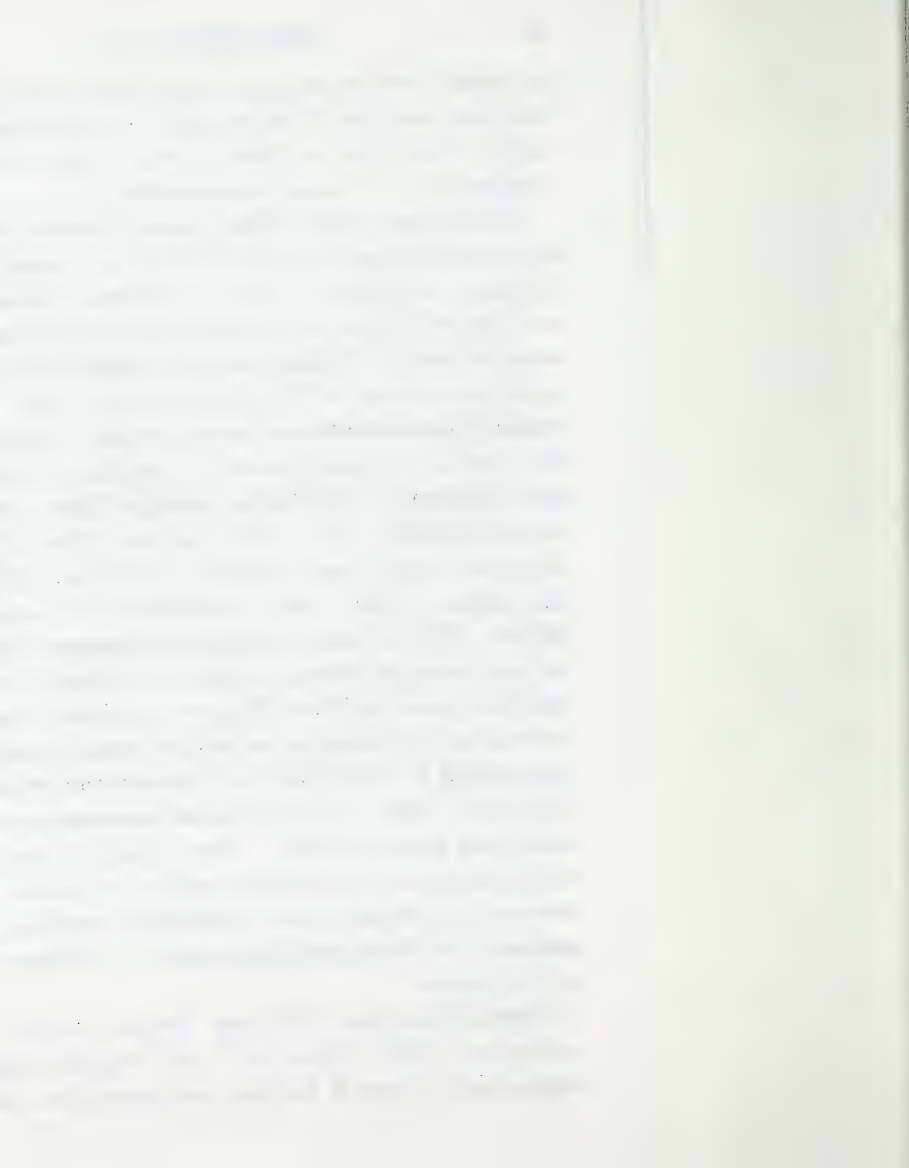
If I mistake not, about this time Martin Allen came into this same neighborhood and settled on what is known as the J. W. Fuller property. He was the first Justice of the Peace appointed in this part of the parish. Mr. Holcomb, about the same time came among us, and Mr. Brazil and Obediah Diskill, and Mr. A. Crownover. Mr. Diskill settled the Cooper place, and Mr. Crownover on the Dr. Harper Creek. Mr. Crownover was a hatter by trade, and to get me a hat I hunted coons many nights to get fur enough to make it. Ten good skins were required to make a boy's hat. Dr. Walker located on the same Harper Creek (both settlements are now in the Joe Carter farm); and he was a doctor by nature and not by education, and very successful in treating all the simple sickness of that day, (1819); for the country was remarkably healthy. The population of this settlement increased rapidly; it looked to us to be numberless, and may be enumerated by calling the names of the families — Mr. Jessie Williams and his good wife, Aunt Minnie, two children and a black dog, and Thomas Gray, who settled three miles south of Murrell. He was a most zealous Methodist and seemed



to think, from the way he talked, that Methodism was first and the Bible second. But religion was at a mighty low ebb in those days. Meat, bread and shelter were the main considerations.

In 1820 news came that some German emigrants had been left near Loggy Bayou in a destitute and helpless condition. Mr. A. J. Alden, Thomas Gray and Murrell went to see if they could be of any assistance to them. Finding them in a truly bad condition, each contracted with a family to live with him two years in consideration of a support and being taught the use of our implements in making a living in a new country. Mr. Alden brought home with him Jacob, a pedler; Mr. Gray, Adam Miller (father of Jake and Cody), and Murrell, Frederick Miller and his father, father and grandfather of Long John Miller. The old man Miller died the second year after he was brought among us, and for his body was dug the first grave, in Murrell's grave yard, and we believe he was the first man to die in Claiborne Parish. That grave used to look lonely out there in the woods, but it is in a little city of the dead now—shaded by the cedar and forest growth. These people worked out their contracts, then settled near by on homes of their own and raised large and respectable families. There are many of these true Millers now in different parts of the parish.

During this year William Gryder moved in and settled on Buck Creek, with all his girls, boys and dogs—many, though he had no more than the law



allowed him. He was our first blacksmith, and hammered more iron and with more persistence than any man in all the land. With him bell making was a specialty; he could not be beat, and he learned all his boys to make bells—his girls were belles by nature, of the best kind, as was proven by the boys taking one as soon as they could. Also came this year the McCartys, the Edmonds and many others, good men and women, whose names I cannot now recall.

In 1821 Mr. Newt Drew settled on Black Bayou, near Driskill. Drew was a gunsmith by trade, though he here turned his attention mainly to farming. He sent his old servant, Jack, one morning to drive up his horses. That morning Jack found a bear turning over a log in search of bugs, and thinking himself a good bear hunter, picked up a pine knot and made for the bear. Slipping close up he let drive at the bear, and to his astonishment the bear wheeled around to see what was the trouble. Seeing Jack, the bear laid his ears back and made for him, but Jack, trusting to his legs, fled like a scared wolf. He escaped from the bear, but when he stopped in his wild flight, he was lost, and wandered around for three or four days when he was found in Dorcheat Swamp, near Long's Springs, as now known, about twenty miles from home. Jack quit the bear business. Mr. Drew afterward moved down on the Dorcheat, established the lower landing and got under way the town of Overton, which being at the head of navigation it was thought would become a big inland city. He also built the

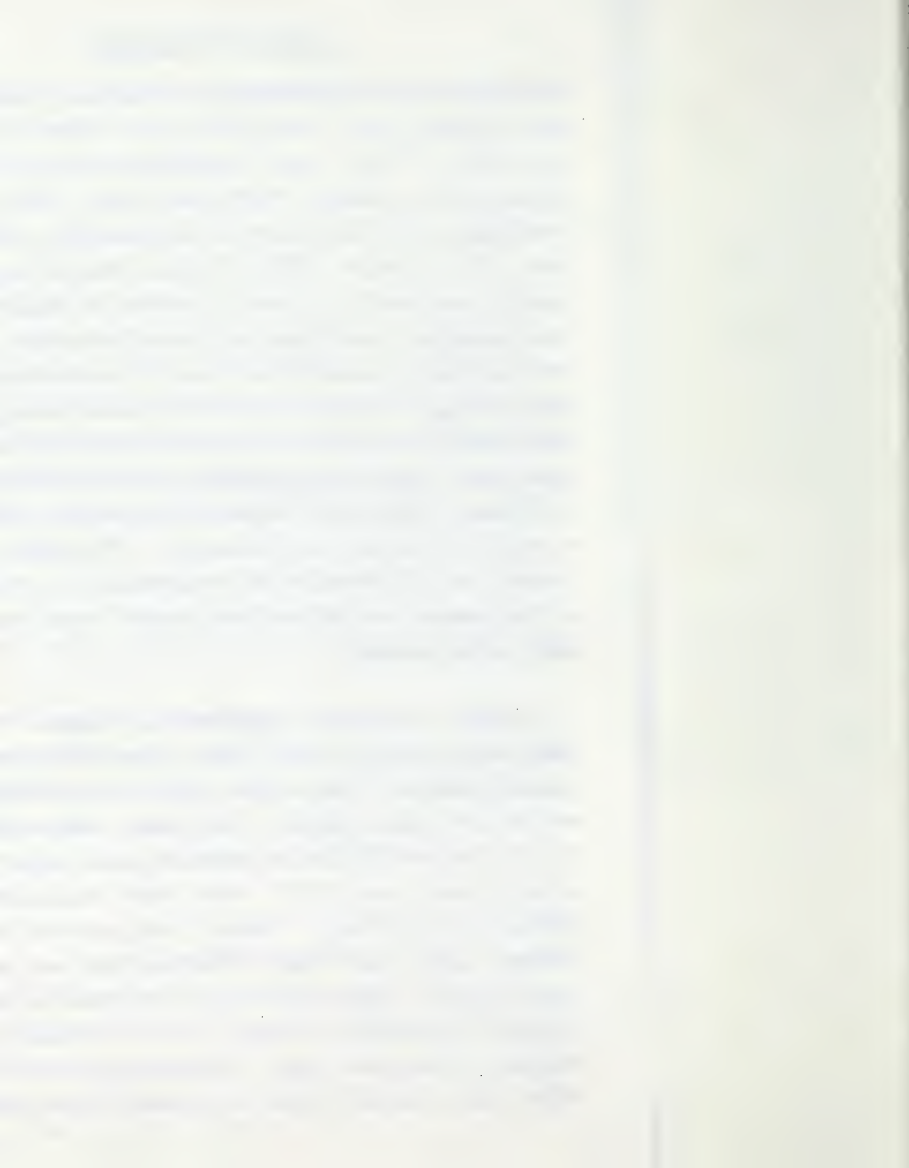


first saw and grist mill in the parish. It was on the Cooly and ran by water power. Much might be said of this good old go-ahead pioneer. Himself and wife were true old Tennessee Baptists. His oldest son, Thomas Drew, became Governor of Arkansas. Harmond Drew, his youngest son, became District Judge in this State, and Richard Drew died while Probate Judge of this Parish. Some of his daughters married well, others, contrary to the old man's wishes, not so well. This makes me think of the first marriage that took place in our parish—though the ceremony of the marriage was performed in Arkansas, if I mistake not. At least it soon became the fashion for the bride and groom to go to Arkansas to get married. People then were about the same as now, in this particular. When they determined to marry, any officer or preacher, who was able to administer the ceremony, would do. This was in 1821, and Mr. John Allen and Miss Mary Holcomb were the happy pair. The next, in 1822, was Wm. Crowley and Miss Jenny Long. This pair, I think went to Natchitoches. Then came the marriage of Raleigh Rogers and Miss Mary Ann Long; then George Demos to Miss Nancy Gryder, and then, well, almost a host in rapid order. All went to Arkansas for convenience. A certain pine log in Arkansas became known as the stopping place, and which soon became famous, for it had frequent visitors from far and near. One couple came from beyond the Sabine river. It was my friend Thomas Palmer and Miss Steel. They told a good joke on her old father.



He left home for Natchitoches on business, when seeing their chance, they made ready and followed on just after him. When near Natchitoches they turned to Grande-Core, crossed Red River, took the Claiborne trail and made direct for that old pine log, where they were duly married. They dodged the old man completely, because they feared, I reckon, he might say not and therefore knew nothing about the matter until he got back home, some two or three days afterwards. If that old log could talk it could tell some funny things. Sometimes the justice of the peace would be absent on a bear hunt, sometimes attending court at Champanolle or Echore-Fabre, and sometimes exercising himself as a good old "Arkansas gentleman." He would have to hunted up and brought in sometimes *via armis*, and in the mean time the anxious couple would camp out and wait—patiently.

In 1822, Mr. Deck (a gunsmith), blessed with an interesting family, settled near where Minden is now located, and Mr. Bias settled within three miles of him on the now Leary place. Near here also settled Mr. Loyd, a devout Methodist preacher, and John Gerren, a very quiet man, but a true born Methodist, and beliked by everybody. James Crow, one of our best citizens, and a full fledged Baptist, but not a fussy man, lived on a place that is now embraced in the farm of Mr. D. Murrell, now dead. Mr. W. Wright located on part of the same farm. Aunt Jenny, as everybody called his wife and whom everybody liked, could tell



as good a joke and laugh as long and loud as any one. She was a kind hearted, generous woman.

We had no such thing as store clothes in those days. Every family had their cotton cards, spinning-wheel and loom. Our shirts and pants were all home-spun, home-woven and home-made. Buckskin pants and hunting shirts, and moccasins, the regular old Indian moccasins, were very fashionable, and a pair of good heavy home-made shoes made one feel almost proud enough, particularly if he was a young man, to think and feel like courting every woman he could hear of in the country.

Our first school was taught by James Ashburner, in 1822, at a salary of \$15 per month. John Murrell employed him.

We got our salt at McCally's salt works, somewhere in the vicinity of Drake's old salt works, in Bienville Parish.

It was about this time, too, that Mr. James Brinson of Ouachita Parish, commenced his monthly preaching at John Murrell's house. Assisted by Mr. Arthur McFarland, they soon established a church (Baptist of course) and kept up regular services for many years. These were the first Baptist preachers in the parish. To show how our section was improving, and what notoriety it was gaining, sometime in this year, 1822, Harrison & Hopkins of Natchitoches, sent up a small stock of goods in charge of a Frenchman by the name of Forshe, who opened up in a small cabin close to



Murrells. But he went off on whiskey, and in a year or two lost his stock in trade and ran away.

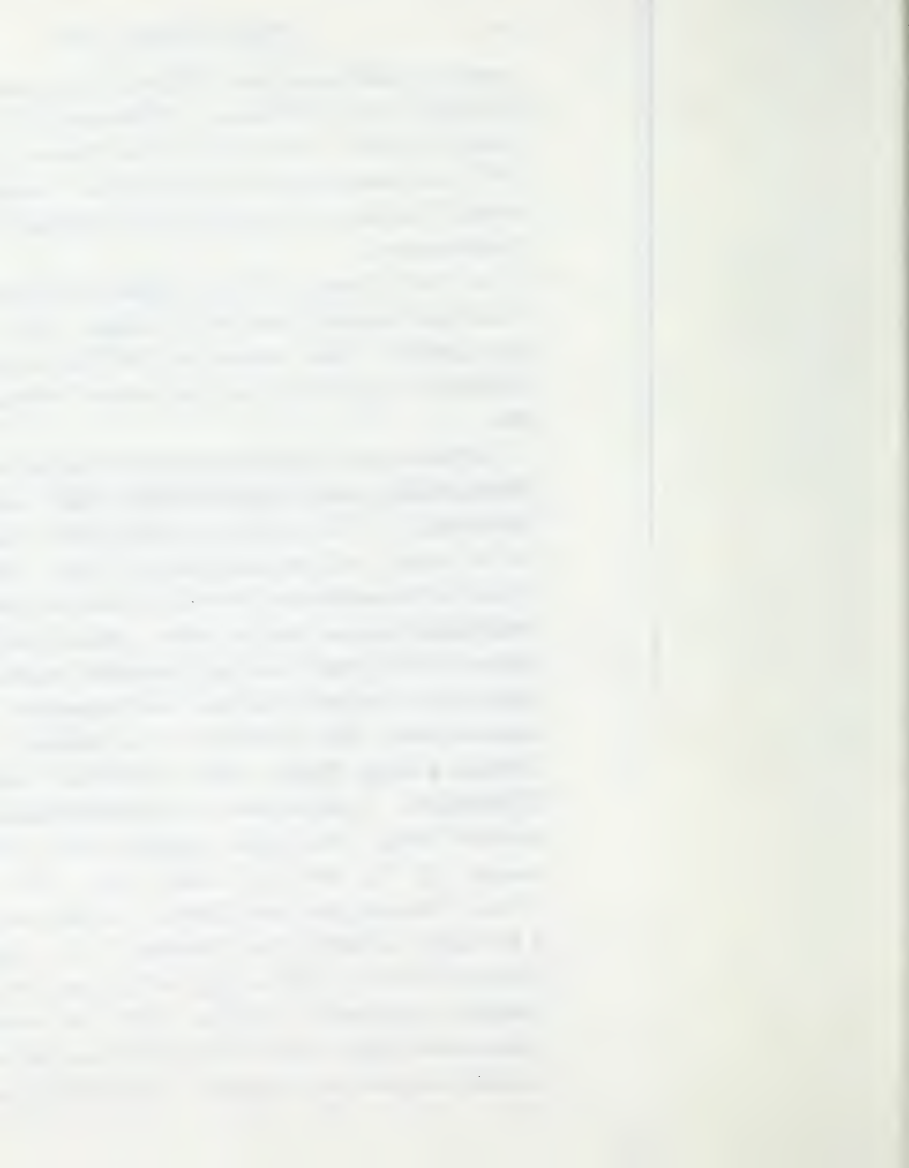
In 1823 a long step towards the civilized world was made, for in that year a mail route was established from Natchitoches to Washington in Arkansas. Our postoffice was called "Allen Settlement Postoffice," because Mr. Allen was our first Justice of the Peace, and John Murrell was appointed postmaster. Trips were made back and forth twice a month. Letters conveyed over 500 miles cost twenty-five cents; and under 500 miles twelve and one-half cents postage. Let us here state that our old friend Peter Franks, was an early settler on Brushy Creek, now in Bienville Parish; also John Leatherman, the Cragiles, and Robert and Jas. Henderson were on the road near the place now known as Buckhorn, but the date of their coming we have forgotten. The first cotton gin was erected by Thomas Moore, in 1824, for Adam Reynolds, who sold it to Russell Jones in 1825, then on the present Harper place. Reynolds was a man of great energy. He made more improvements and sold out oftener than any man in the parish, except perhaps, John D. Pair. About this time Josiah Wilson, believing competition to be the life of trade, started up the Middle Landing, near Minden. These two landings go to show that the boating business (keel boats I mean) amounted to something. James Lee and R. L. Killgore, in 1825, opened a fair stock of goods in the little storehouse near Murrell that had been put up by Harrison & Hopkins. And in this year we had our first camp



meeting, held near Isaac Miller's place, and conducted by Revs. Wm. Stevenson, McMahon and Ross. The next, in 1826-7, were held on the Maxey place, and in 1827 was assembled our first Baptist Association, in a school house on the late Dr. Martin's farm, near Germantown.

In 1825 Charley Hays settled on the place now known as Keener farm, near Athens. He was reputed the greatest bear hunter of his day—making bear hunting a specialty in the winter when they were fat.

In those early days the French Creoles in and about Natchitoches and Campte would make raids through the country bear hunting, having with them from 25 to 30 ponies and as many dogs. They moved northward in December and returned generally in February, with their ponies loaded down with bear meat and skins. This year George Grounds located on Flat Lick. He was as kind and true a hearted Dutchman as ever lived but would go off on whiskey sometimes. He had a large family, some of whom were devoted Methodists. I think some of his descendants are yet in this Parish. Our first singing school, in 1827, was taught by Mr. George Ridley, near Mr. Ground's house. He used the patent notes. In this year also, and I am sorry to tell it, the Baptists had a split in their church about the fellowship of the members, whose conduct was not in keeping with the word. Some condemned while others sustained them, believing their conduct not to be unscriptural. The parties sustaining



the brothers, took the Bible for their creed and guide, and went off, refusing to be governed by man's creed, and there are a few of that faith in the parish yet—calling themselves Christians, for short. They came very near playing out though, when the war of 1861 came on. Some time during this year the road heretofore referred to as the military road, was cut by United State tsoops, connecting Fort Jessup, on lower Red River, with Fort Towson, away up on upper Red River. This road was opened to transport supplies to that distant garrison. I well recollect that the soldiers and recruits passing to and from that fort, stole everything of small value they could lay their hands on—such as bells, whetstones, chickens, geese, etc., and among other things a pet deer from Murrell's yard.

In 1828 Claiborne Parish was created. It was bounded on the east by Ouachita Parish, on the west by Red River, on the north by Arkansas Territory and on the south by a line dividing townships 13 and 14, crossing the old military road at or near what was then called Boggy Branch, and touching Red River at or near East Point. Our first probate judge was Chichester Chaplin, a young lawyer and widower of some promise. He was from Natchitoches and was appointed judge. But he soon cast aside his weeds and married Mrs. Palmer, a most estimable lady. Bob Cochran was Clerk of the Court, Isaac McMahon Sheriff, and a Mr. Wilson of Monroe, District Judge. Murrell's house was used for a Court-house for a year



or two, when, by the influence of Sam Russell and others at interest, a place on his (Russell's) property was selected as the parish site, which was named for him, Russellville. Then James Lee and R. C. Killgore moved their stock of goods there, thereby being the first merchants in Russellville.

As our people had now increased considerably in numbers, the convenience of public roads began to be called for. So in 1829 our first public road was opened. It was from Russellville to the Minden lower landing, the head of navigation on Bayou Dorcheat. Hands were summoned for a distance of 25 to 30 miles to open it. This road was a big item in our history then. An election was held this year, and Murrell's house, which seems to have become the headquarters on all public occasions, was the voting place. A difficulty sprang up while the voting was going on between George Grounds, Jr., and James Madden. They exchanged a few blows and were then separated. Wm. Robinson, Justice of the Peace, ordered the Sheriff to arrest the two combatants and bring them before his august presence, which order was promptly executed. On investigation the J. P. found Grounds guilty of assault and battery, fined him \$20 and to be held in custody until paid. Grounds, poor fellow, had no money, but offered to sell two cows and calves to pay the fine. A purchaser was soon found for the cattle, the fine paid, and so was closed this breach of the peace without further trouble. Was that not a better way to dispose of such troubles than now pre-



vail? James Dyer, who moved to Texas after the war, was the first representative, 1829, that Claiborne Parish had the honor of sending to the State capital; and his immediate successor, a full-blooded Democrat, was Berry A. Wilson. It was in 1830, I think, the legislature appropriated \$1,500 for the improvement of navigation in Loggy Bayou and Lake Bistenau. The contract was awarded to a Mr. Leavright, which work he executed to the satisfaction of the committee appointed to examine and pronounce upon the faithful fulfillment of the the contract. And now as our honorable Court had got into good working order, it may be well to refer to the first case of any importance that was spread upon the court docket. This was Hempink vs. Mabry Wafer. It hung fire for years. Mr. Wafer lived on Sugar Creek, and was Justice of the Peace in that ward. He was a shrewd man, knew what he was about, and in law was generally successful.

By this time and up to 1833, a number of small trading houses were set up in different parts of the parish. Mr. Savage, of Campte, had a shop at Overton, and was succeeded by Joe Robinson, also of Campte. D. C. Pratt was his successor. One McGrady opened up on Flat Lick. George A. Bell succeeded him and then Wm. Harkins bought out Bell. They all carried on a splendid one-horse business. Mr. Harkins was justice of the peace for years, and was considered a good judge of law—at least he had considerable experience as defendant.



As before stated, roads in these early days were not, and the pathways and byways were winding, yet along these ways our people would bring from distant trading points nearly all their supplies on horseback, even to bars of iron. Our rude wagons would sometimes set out on a trip to Natchitoches or Monroe, with wooden axles and no skeins, and the screeching of the wheels, which were long and loud, could be heard of a morning three and four miles away, reminding one of a pack of hounds at full cry in the distance. But the boys and drivers were used to such a racket, and the game was so plentiful that by the time the wagons would reach Natchitoches or Monroe they would be bearing an extra load of deer skins; and skins or peltry were then our main staple or exchange in trade. It took twenty to forty days to make these wagon trips.

Sometime in 1833 Mr. Alexander and Jake Masters determined to slaughter an old bear that had got into the bad habit of making away with their hogs in Dorchest swamp. They soon got Mr. Bear up and then the chase began. The bear passed several times through an open slough in the cane-brake, and Alexander discovering this, took a stand for him in the slough. Soon the bear entered the slough, and spying Alexander, made for him with a vengeance. Alexander's gun failed to fire, the bear went for him, and had it not been for Alexander's buckskin suit he would have been killed—he was maimed for life. Mas-



t, g l n s 1 3 t f
ters said it was the first fight he ever saw that he had rather not take choice of sides.

I should have stated that the first killing in this section was by a Mr. Sapp who killed his brother-in-law, Bryant, and then fled to the Indian Nation. The cause of the killing was said to be henious. Then came the next murder in our parish. It occurred about eight miles east of Minden, on the military road. It was the willful assassination of a Mr. Sloan, of Arkansas, by John Halthouser, for his money. Halthouser believed Mr. Sloan had a good sum of money on his person, as he was a trader, but he had only \$370 with him at that time, of which sum \$60 was found in possession of Halthouser. To make a good thing of it, watch was kept on Sloan until report said he had some fifteen hundred dollars that he was taking to Arkansas. Secreting himself in the brush, on the military road, Halthouser waited his opportunity. The old man Sloan, apprehending no danger, rode by where the murderer was concealed, and was shot through the head from behind with a rifle ball. It had been raining a good deal and the ground was wet and the grass luxuriant. The track of the dead man was left on the ground, as his body was dragged to one side, about fifty yards from the road, and thrown into a pool of water. The buzzards attracted the attention of some passers-by, a few days afterwards, when on examination the ghastly corpse was found, and a too precipitate display of money led to the suspicion of the Dutchman, which demoralized him. It was generally be-



lieved at the time that Halthouser's brother-in-law had a hand in the murder, but if such was the case Halthouser was too plucky to tell on him. Halthouser was found guilty, confessed, and was executed at Russellville in 1835, by Mr. Dyer, then our sheriff.

But after this followed one of the most horrible murders and shocking crimes ever recorded. It was the desecration and murder of Miss Demos, a young lady about eighteen years of age. She was on horseback, going by a pathway from her father's house to a neighbor, to warp some thread. Failing to return in time search was made, the signs of a desperate struggle found, and the signs being followed, the dead body of the girl was found, with both arms broken and the face pressed down in a pool of water. The footprints of the murderer were plainly to be seen on her shoulders, where he stood pressing her down. The whole community arose in its wrath and instituted search for the monster. A bloody shirt belonging to one Lambright was found in his own cabin, and on failing to satisfactorily to explain, he was arrested as the murderer, but escaping from jail, how, no one knew, fled to Texas and was no more heard of.

Here we close these reminiscences, because a number of the actors of that day are yet living and the events of the later years are patent to many now with us, and can be re-called by them, perhaps, with more relish than myself, for we were all plain people then, with few wants and much love for our fellow man. Sixty-seven years, with all their promises and disap-



pointments, their sunshine and shadows, have come and gone since I came to North Louisiana. Many changes, ups and downs, since then have occurred. Then I was young and jubilant, now I am old and stricken in years; my sons and daughters, save one, fail to answer my call. Ah, Yes—

“My head it is gray;

Yet I sit in the sunshine to watch you.—”



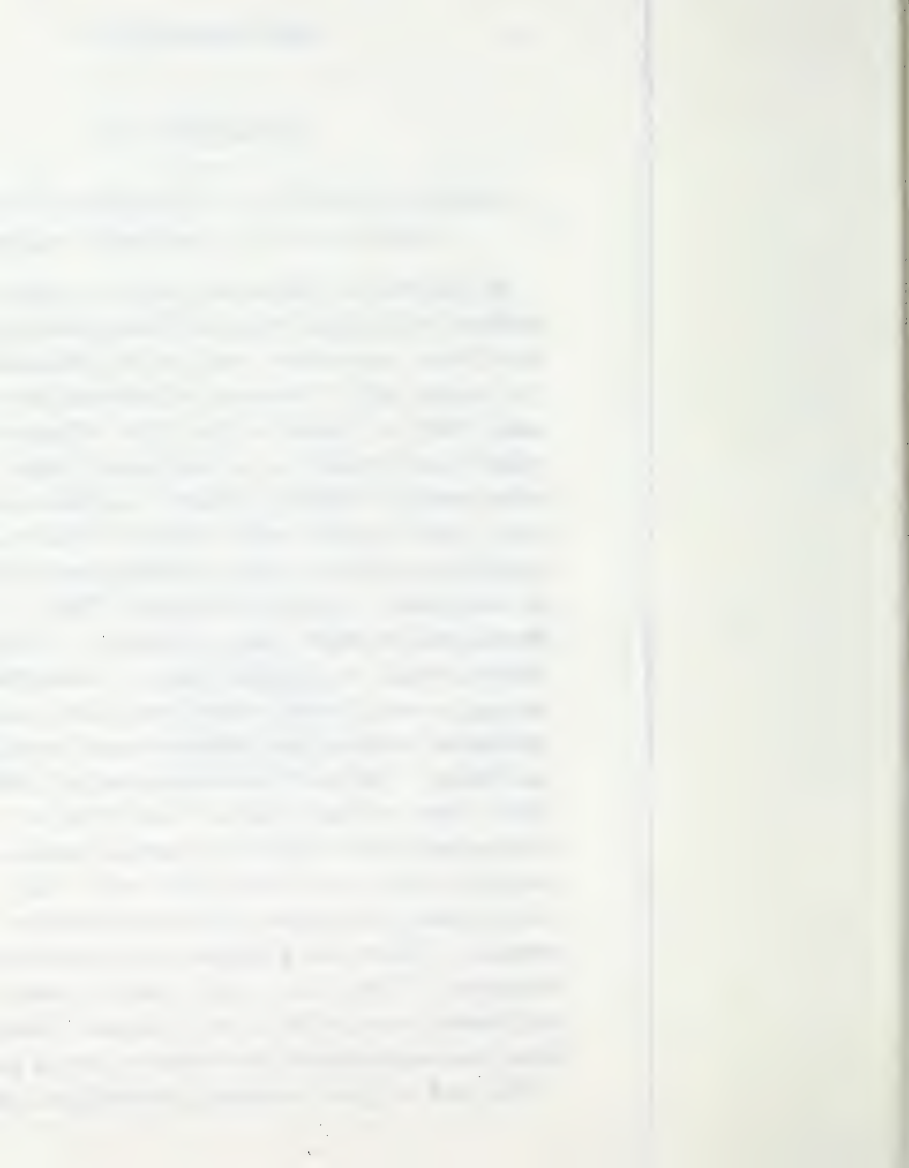


CHAPTER VI.

A GEORGIA EMIGRANT—HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF THE
EARLY DAYS IN CLAIBORNE PARISH.

On the 28th of November, 1847, my father and step-mother, with eight boys, left Troup County, Georgia, for a home somewhere west of the Mississippi River. On the 8th day of January, (a historical day in Louisiana), 1848, we landed in the little village of Athens, which was situated on a deep sandy ridge, about ten miles south of Homer, (Homer was then not in existence,) and fourteen miles north of Minden. Minden was then a small but active trading point at the head of navigation on Lake Bistenau. This I hope will enable you to know where Athens is. We found in Athens, when we stopped there, a beautiful flowing spring, a court house, which was then considered a creditable building, and about a dozen dwellings, here and there. The court house remained at Athens until 1849, when on the night of Nov. 27th, it was fired and burned down with all the parish records. How it took fire has never been found out. The postoffice was in charge of Arthur McFarland, who was a Baptist preacher. There was a little tavern also kept by one Saunders P. Day; also a small stock of goods in a little log house, managed by a man named Kiser. Right here was concentrated the business part of town.

We had a good camping ground just above the



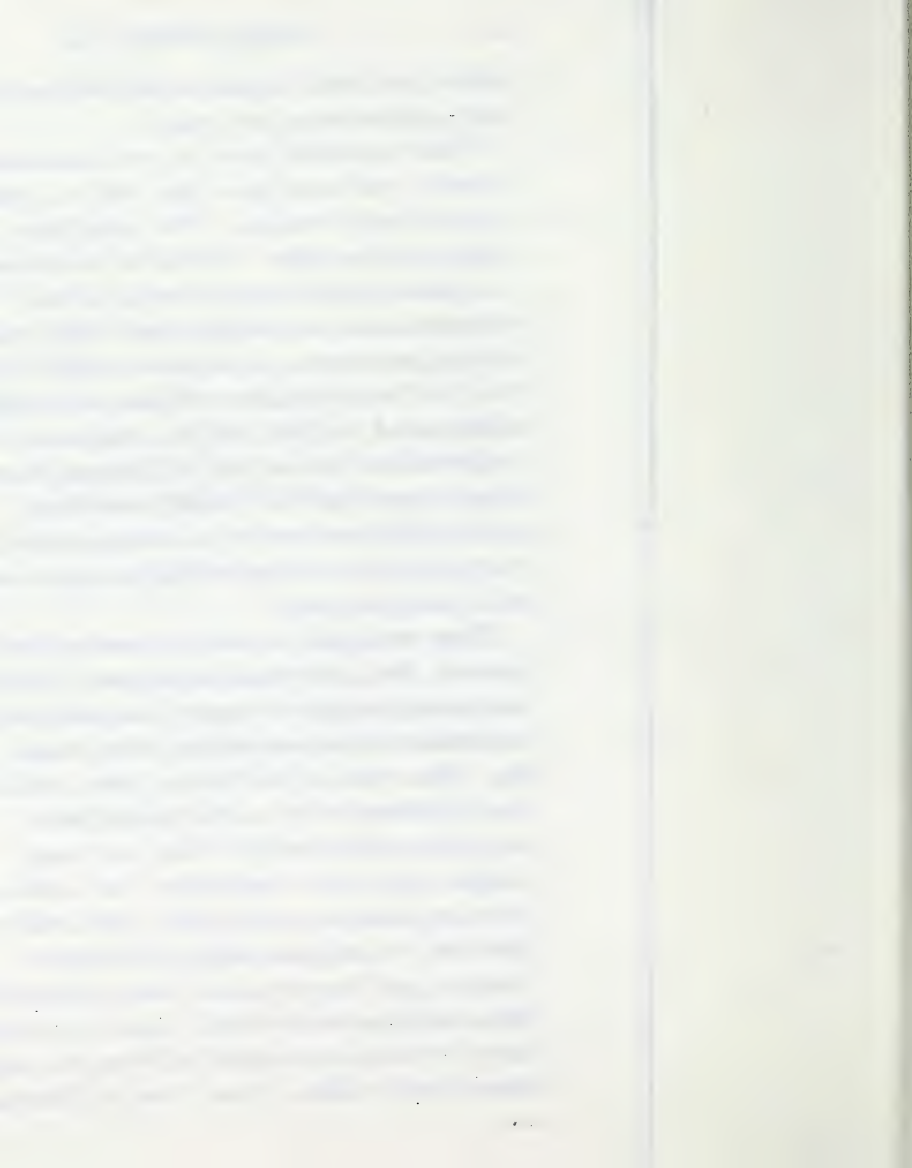
spring I have referred to. Shortly after we had got our camp pitched, who should ride up but Mr. John Kimball, and to father's great surprise he at once recognized him. He and father, when boys, were play mates. Well, you can imagine how pleasant was the meeting between these two men in the wilds of Louisiana, who separated when boys in old Georgia. Mr. Kimball at that time was living on the John Frazier place, now known as the Keener place. Mr. Kimball was anxious for all new comers to do well, so he told father of a good place about three and a half miles southeast of Athens, known as the Nelson place, and which he thought could be bought cheap and on good terms. Nelson had moved to Arkansas, leaving this place in charge of Col. Lang Lewis, as agent. On agreement, early next morning, Col. Kimball was back at our camp, and in a little while he and father went off together to look at the Nelson place. On examination father was so well pleased that he and the Colonel went direct to Col. Lewis's, and, behold, here came together three old Georgian boys, now men with families in the far West. Father did not hesitate to make known his business to Col. Lewis; a trade was soon made, a good dinner partaken of, and a long old Georgia talk indulged in all round. Then father and Col. Kimball set out for our camp in Athens, to bring the good tidings that we had a home now, and would next day be under our own shelter. I tell you that was a happy camp that night. The next morning, January 10th, we rolled out of camp for home, where



father lived until September 30, 1867, on which day he died, aged seventy-four years.

When we settled down in our Louisiana home, the country was new, open and full of game, such as turkey, deer, 'coon, etc. We could have venison or a turkey just any day. Often we would have as many as a dozen dried venison hams at a time. Wolves were numerous and very troublesome. They were very fond of pigs, and many a night have I heard a pig squeal as Mr. Wolf was flying off with him to the thicket. They disappeared in 1852, and the last bear killed in our neighborhood was in 1850 by Thomas Berry and A. J. Durant, near the old Windfall race track. Lands were cheap, \$2.50 per acre on an average up to 1848. It was very productive—often making as much as forty bushels of corn per acre.

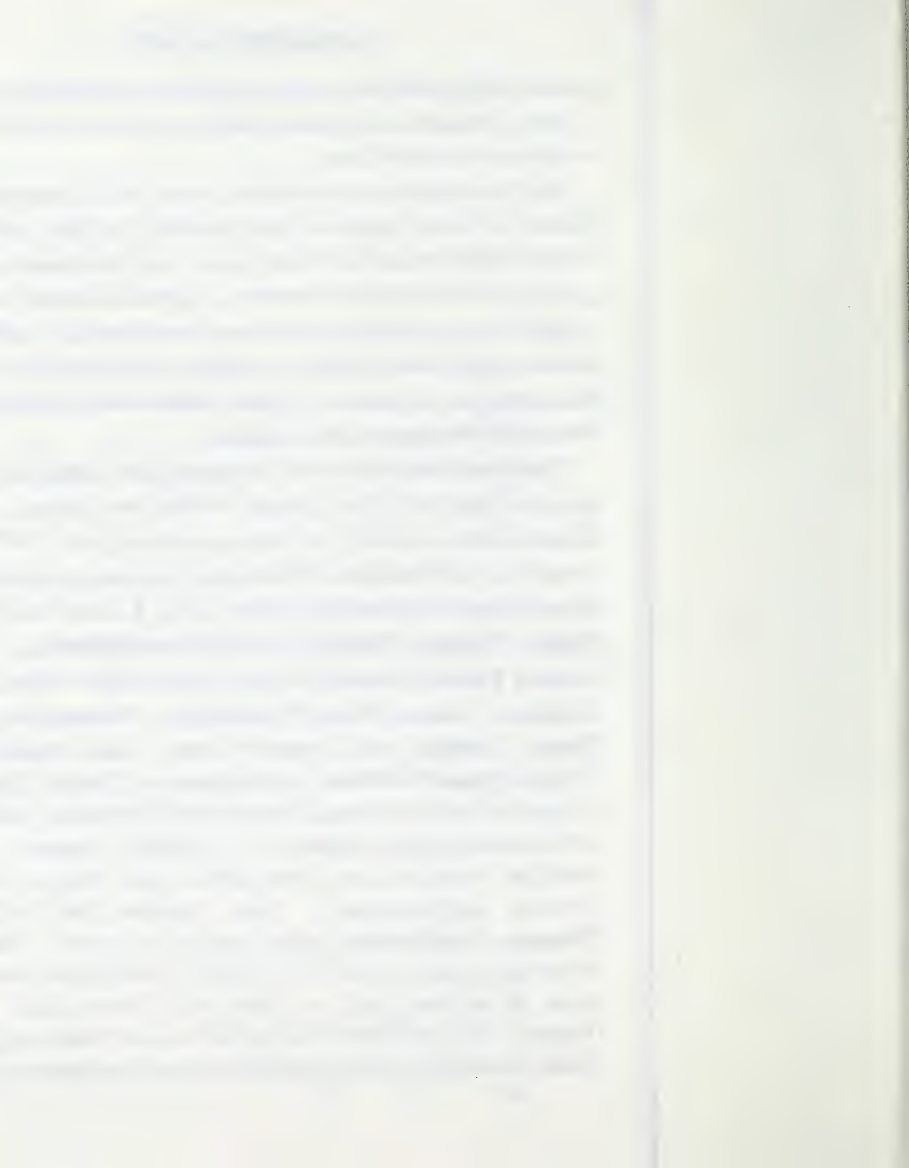
There were only a few common water-mills in the country then, and when the summer came the winter and spring supply of water in the ponds would become exhausted, and of course the mills would stop grinding. Two were on the Murrell creek and one just below old Russellville, on the Berry Creek. There were a few horse-mills and gins here and there. Densmore Cargile and Sam Leatherman had mills attached to their gin machinery and made very good meal. The tole then was only one-fourth of the grist. Wonderful changes and improvements have taken the place of those early day make-shifts. But we all thought nothing of it then, satisfied in believing we had the best times could afford. Now I am in hearing of eight



steam-mill whistles—where lumber of all kind is made—corn ground and cotton ginned, and even pressed by steam at some of them.

As for churches and schools, very little interest was taken in them when we first landed in this country. But in 1850, when the Georgians and Alabamians began to crowd into the country, a great interest in both church and school was soon manifested, and this interest has been making more or less progress up to this date, as is proven by the numerous schools and churches throughout the parish.

Perhaps it may be well to name the families living in this part of the parish when we came; their descendants or many of them are here yet. We will name the McFarlands, Brinsons, Nelsons, related families; Albert Ashbrook, Jessie Long, Luther and Dave Pratt, Esquire Russell, the Butlers, Browns, Isaac Alden, Peter Franks, Berry Wilson, Jim Lee, R. L. Killgore, James Dial, Madden, Sr., Thompson, Tom Berry, Martin and Jimmy Crow, Bob Henderson, Wright, Sam Williams, Leathermans, Pruitts, Taylors, Cargile, John Wilson, Parker and Barfield, Mullens and Charley Hays, father of C. L. Hays. Some of these families were in the Russellville and others in the Athens neighborhood. Near Athens you will find Thomas Leatherman, who has ever proved himself a worthy citizen, and C. L. Hays, who has as few enemies (if he has any) as any man living, and Isaac Butler, who yet loves the fun of beaver trapping, and Tom Crow, who can make a dollar and has sense enough



to save it. Among the old ladies yet among us, who were young and in their prime when they came here, let me mention Aunt Charity Berry; she is about eighty-five years old and is still living on the place where she first settled, fifty years ago. My old step-mother also, who came to this land of promise with father thirty-six years ago, is still living, and is seventy-eight years old.

Russellville being the parish cite of Claiborne Parish, perhaps a few words as to its history may not be out of place here. Its settlement began, if I mistake not, about 1825. R. L. Killgore deposited the money in the Land Office at Natchitoches to enter the land on which the village was built. This deposit of the purchase money was made at the request of many citizens in order to secure that particular locality for the town—as the land in that part of the parish had not yet been surveyed. The courthouse and jail, both of wood, were promptly erected, also several small business houses and grog shops. It was a wild place, inhabited in part and visited by a number of hard cases—to be found in all new countries. Russellville had the honor of the first man tried, convicted and hung as the law directs. The miserable man, Halthouser, was hung about half a mile east of the courthouse. R. L. Killgore, one of the early merchants of Claiborne, first sold goods, etc., near the Murrell place and next at Russellville. Lee and Berry Wilson were with him. Soon after commencing business in Russellville he married Miss Maria A. Miller, whose father was the first white

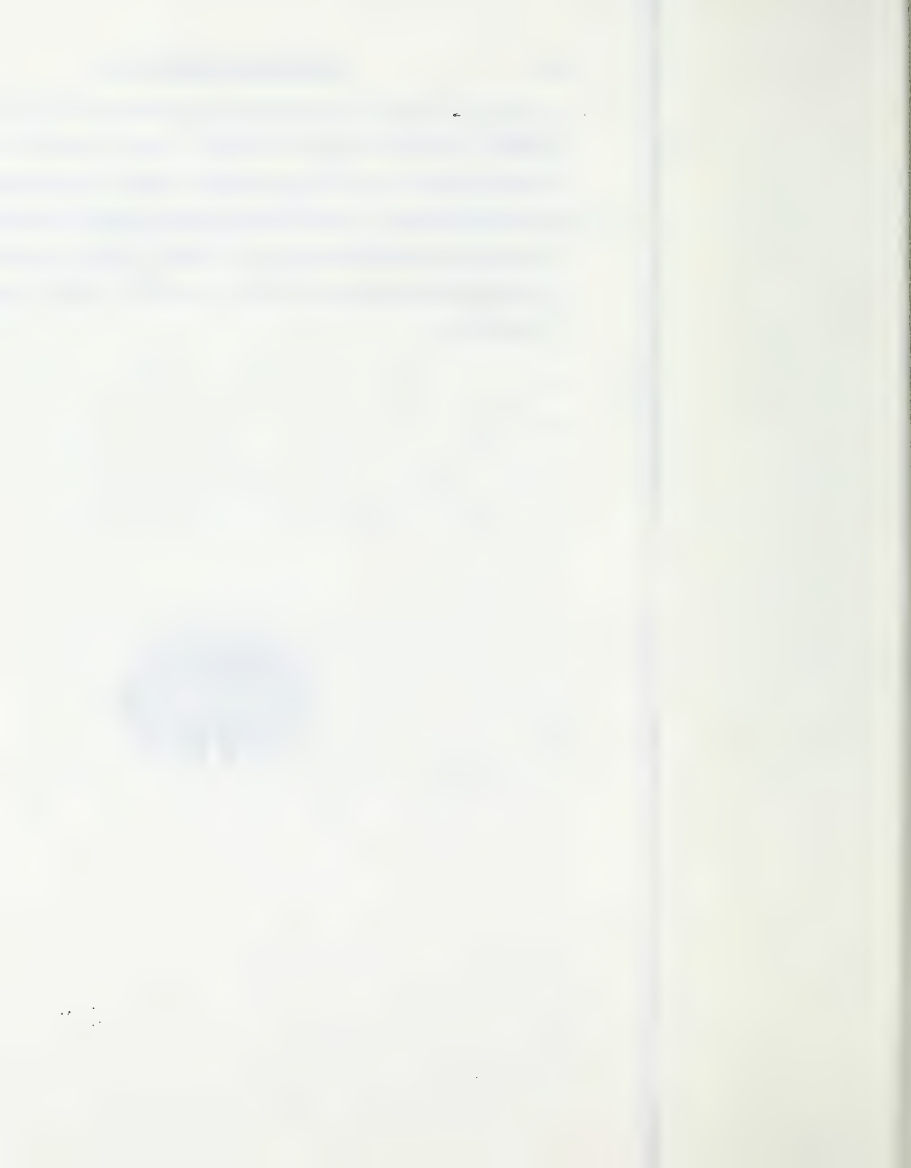
man buried in the Murrell graveyard. Killgore was a popular and worthy citizen, and the people showed their appreciation of him by electing him parish judge, which office he filled eight years. He was next elected by the Democratic party to represent Claiborne Parish in the State legislature, defeating his Whig opponent, James Dial, by a large majority. Killgore, after serving his term in the legislature, retired to private life, esteemed by all. He raised a large family of children—five boys and six girls. He lost two gallant sons in the late war, and his youngest son was the first person buried at Salem church. Judge Killgore died in 1871 and his wife in 1883. Both were buried by the side of their son.

A parting word about Russellville. We have referred to her when she was in all her pride and prosperity. When the courthouse was moved her glory departed. The village ground is now an old worn out field, and the only house that was a part of the village stands solitary and alone, just above the spring. This was the house of Judge Killgore, and is the oldest house in this part of the parish. Having referred to Athens as she was thirty-six years ago, let me refer to her as she is now. Athens is situated in the midst of a good and religious people. There are none better, taken all in all in the parish. She has two first rate churches, Baptist and Methodist, each blessed with a large and active membership. She has the parsonage of the Tulip circuit—has a good school—a good doctor—two commodious store-houses—a good steam gin



and grist-mill—a blacksmith and wood-shop and a post office with four mails a week. Four public roads lead to and from the village, and on each are several beautiful residences. And now let me close this little narrative by advising all men to obey the laws; keep God's commandments, and then we will dwell in peace and harmony.





CHAPTER VII.

OVERLAND, FROM WEST POINT, GEORGIA, THROUGH
NORTH LOUISIANA TO ARKANSAS AND
BACK TO CLAIBORNE.

On the 8th of December, 1843, with wife and four children, I left my old Georgia home for the State of Arkansas. There had been a continued and unusual amount of rain, the streams were much swollen and the roads were almost impassible. On this account, when we reached Eutaw, in Green County, Ala., we stopped four months. This place had lately been made the county site, consequently it was full of life and activity in the way of improvements. The surrounding lands were rich, and mostly owned by wealthy planters. We utilized our time and skill while in this place. The first of May, 1844, I was *en route* to the West. B. P. Robinson, who left Georgia with us, had stopped over at Greensborough, the late county site of Green. He left Greensborough the day before we left Eutaw, it having been agreed that we should meet at a certain place; but in this we failed, and I moved on. But Robinson overtook me at Pearl River, in Mississippi. At Jackson we took the road to Rodney, having learned we could not get through the Mississippi bottom opposite Vicksburg. Crossing the river we traveled down the west bank to Waterproof. Then we left the river,

turning northwest to Green's bayou. And this was our first day west of the great river. In Alabama and in Mississippi we had seen large bodies of rich land and magnificent farms stretched out as far as the eye could reach, around splendid mansions. My thoughts would go back to Morgan County, Ga., where I was born and partly raised, and to Troup County which I had so lately left, and the contrast was wonderful. We found a great deal of poor land though, both in Alabama and Mississippi; but when we beheld the land west of the Mississippi we found the soil far beyond anything we had ever imagined. We could but think of that granery of the world, the land of the Nile, in Egypt. We had some trouble in crossing Green's Bayou, for it was full. Getting side by side two dry cypress logs, we made a raft, and fortunately, being in the days when corded bedsteads were in vogue, we tied our bedcords to the trees on either bank and thereby drew our raft across. We carried a wagon at each trip, then carried over the women and children and last swam our stock over. We were of course delayed here some time, in the midst of immense cane brakes, cypress and other swamp growth. The noises of this howling wilderness at night were peculiar and to us horrible. Believing we had crossed the most difficult stream on our way to Sicily Island, we resumed our journey in good spirits, but were soon and sadly disappointed. We came to the Tensas River, where the Choctaw enters it, at Kirke's Ferry, and was told and saw that there was no chance of pursuing our



way to Sicily Island by land, for from the ferry to the island nearly everything was under water. We pitched our camp on the edge of a cane-brake near the banks of the river, and fed our stock on cane. There were but few settlers near our camp, which made it rather lonely, and as the river was rising very fast, we also felt a little uncomfortable, for retreat was imposible. Apprehensive that our camping place might be entirely submerged, we determined to build a proper raft and try to make our way down the Tensas. Robinson had three sons nearly grown, a lad of a boy, a negro man and woman. I had one negro woman. We determined to utilize all our force in building our raft, had determined on plan and size, and were about to commence work, when as fortune would have it, up came a little stern-wheel boat, propelled by horse-power. Hailing this boat she came to land, and it was not long before we made a trade with the proprietor to take us around to Harrisonburg, on the Ouachita River; but as the boat was on her up trip, we had to remain in our disagreeable camp two or three days, and during this time we took to pieces our hack and wagons. On the return of the boat we got our families aboard, then our teams, and so placed our wagons as to prevent our stock from falling overboard. Our horse steamboat moved down stream slowly, and on reaching Waterproof, greatly to our annoyance, remained there some time. We could only be patient, however, and abide our boat's time. At last up the Ouachita we went creeping along, taking three days

to make a trip of seventy miles. We landed at Harrisonburg in the night, but desiring to leave that boat, we went to work and got everything ashore and had our wagons together ready for an early move the next day. Harrisonburg was a small place and looked rather ancient—boasted of two or three business houses with small stocks of goods. Turning our way north we found the country very poor, but having plenty of fine pine timber; occasionally would be passed a body of good land, and now and then a settlement on the road we traveled. We began to feel discouraged, to think we had left behind the Eden of America.

When we reached Jackson Parish, we found a little more promising country, more settlements, and the people had plenty of all the substantials. Watermelons were abundant and free. Pushing on through, we reached and crossed D'Arbonne near the junction of Corni Bayou. On reaching Farmerville, then a new place and improving rapidly, we rested a while. Leaving Farmerville with a good impression of its people, we pursued our journey through Union Parish to Union County, Arkansas, and stopped at a place which afterwards became known as Lisbon. After crossing the D'Arbonne, we found the lands generally to be of a deep sandy soil, well watered, with an abundance of pine timber. A peculiarity of this region I noticed, was a swamp growth all over the hills, and this was a new chapter to me. Emigration was pouring into this hill country from all the Southern



States. A few of the old settlers, "Hoosiers," some called them, who had been here for years and who had made hunting their main business, still remained on their old homes. They were generous and kind, though rude in their way, but felt grieved at seeing the forest, in which they had spent so many happy days, so ruthlessly cut down. Most of the emigrants of that day were men of some means, with growing families. Union County filled rapidly with a class of men, take them all in all, that could not be surpassed in those sentiments that go to make up a reliable and trusty people. About the time Eldorado was laid off into lots, 1845, I settled down about two miles from it, but remained only one year. The improvement of town and country that year was wonderful, and for years the agricultural yield was great. But in a few years the lands washed badly and began to fail, when they should have been in their prime. We left Union County the last of December, 1845, and went to Deshae County. We got to our new home in the early part of January, 1846. Deshae is a river county, and Napoleon, situated at or near the mouth of the Arkansas River, was and yet may be the county site. I spent the year in that part of the country lying between the Bartholomew and Saline Rivers. In 1847 I had to move, but it was only to another place in the same region. Being in the saddle most of the time, I traveled over large portions of the country, but mostly in the Arkansas River sections. From Pine Bluff to the Arkansas Post, the lands were very rich, and a num-



ber of large farms were being worked there. A few farms only were back from the river. At the close of the year, I moved to Drew County, settling down in the parsonage, where I remained during 1848 and '49. Having to change my location, I moved to a small town not far from Monticello, known as Rough and Ready. At the close of 1850, I was broken down in health, and with a dependent and expensive family of seven children to raise and educate. Having visited Claiborne Parish, I decided to make that my home. Leaving Pine Bluff in the latter part of December, I arrived in Claiborne in April, 1857, having been delayed by business on the way. There was then a heavy tide of emigration pouring in. I have never seen more energy displayed than was displayed by these newcomers. Thousands of acres were yearly cut down and brought into cultivation. As to intelligence and morality, this community was comparable with any. There were many men of sterling and superior worth here. The soil of the parish, her prodigality of forests, were unsurpassed by any upland parish in the State, or county in south Arkansas. From 1850 to 1861, the accumulation of property in the parish was immense, churches were established everywhere; schools in every neighborhood; prosperity blessed the land, and the people were just and happy. But the war cloud came down in 1861, and the present and promising future vanished in the turmoil and devastation of marching and contending armies.



CHAPTER VIII.

OTHER SETTLEMENTS AND NEIGHBORHOODS—ANTI-
BELLUM VILLAGES—PERSONAL MEN-
TION—INCIDENTS, ETC.,

Although the tide of emigration had been steadily increasing in volume, it was not till 1850 that it reached its flood; then the rush, by land and by water, was continuous and immense, particularly to the eastern portion of the parish. Up to about that year, this part of Claiborne was rather thinly populated—but those that had come in were of the best material. It was composed of such families as that of O'Banon, Hargis, Dr. Bush, Thomson, Nolan, Williams, Smith Barber, Wasson, Bruce, Kennedy, Hall, Nelson, Wafer, Bullock, Aitken, Stephenson, Dyer, Gee, Butler, Henderson and Henry, James Dyer, Sam'l Smith, Dr. Bush and Richard Hargis, who once, represented the parish in the State Legislature. These pioneers came to North Louisiana when it was one of the most charming countries in the west. The axe had never resounded in these forest isles, save the chipping of the early surveyor. The forest was grand in its primeval state; the cloth of green spread interminably, presenting a vast range for all manner of stock in summer, and in winter was the switch-cane on the hill-sides and dense masses of large growth in the bot-

toms. The huge oaks never failed to furnish a bountiful supply of mast, or acorns. Game, consisting of bear, deer, turkey, wolf, fox, cat, ducks, numerous birds, fish in such quantities that the supply really appeared inexhaustible. It was certainly the happiest community to be found. Unpretending, possessed with a bountiful supply of the real comforts of life, with elementary schools in log cabins, the pathetic story of the Cross told under some umbrageous arbor, or in a rude log house with puncheon floor and seats; with wants few, and ways just, these people were happy.

But about 1849-50, this primeval land was found by the working Georgian and Alabamian, and from 1850 to 1861 lands changed ownership rapidly, the large area of public lands, then vacant, were soon entered. Then indeed the busy hum of agricultural industry commenced in earnest.

"Loud sounds the axe, redoubling stroke on stroke,
On all sides round, the forest, hurls the oak.
Headlong, deep echoing, groan the thickets brown,
Then cracking, crashing, rushing, thunder down."

And the busy thud of the massive mawl, swung by black sinewy arms, kept time to the old plantation song of the simple happy negro, which for its plaintive melody can never be recalled on stage or in song. Roads were opened, the bayous bridged, academies were built and churches reared, in which such men as Randal, Wafer, Pennington, Fancher, Fuller, Simmons



and others of equal ability and earnestness worked to develop the religious spirit of the people.

Up sprang the village of Lisbon, surrounded and built by many well known families. I recall those of Killgore, McClendon, Cook, Duke, Patton, Tate, Bullard, White, Simmons, Heard, Coleman, Tippet, Aycock, McCasland, Dawson, Williams, Pennington and many others, with Dr. Seth Tatum, making it a live village.

A few miles west of Lisbon was the thriving business stand of Forest Grove, the leading spirit of which was that truly good and upright man, Frank Taylor. He now sleeps in the bosom of Texas, and the place he once made noted throughout Claiborne, is now pointed out by the cold marble shaft in its silent forest grave yard. Here rests the remains of that eloquent and active christian, Tatum Wafer ; and Dr. Scaife, a physician of note and a man of business ; of Milton Barnett, and many others whose memory is yet green in the hearts of surviving friends and relatives. The Methodist Church at this place was the most noted in the parish in its day, for here the ablest men preached and the most effective work was accomplished in the name of the Master. North from this place on the banks of the Corni flourished for years the active village of Scottsville, at the supposed head of navigation on that stream. But navigation never came. Yet such men as Major Browning, Dr Bush, Thomas Hart, the Stanleys and others like these, gave it life and vigor for years. But the village is now dead and no longer known.



West of this place was situated the little inland village of Colquit, surrounded by such men as John Wilson, Elbert Gray, the Tignors, and others, whose names we cannot now recall. Blessed with a good church and a thrifty community, it flourished as did Claiborne, but is now nearly silent. A few miles west of this place, we come to Gordon, named for Dr. Gordon, who started it, and is now, if living, a citizen of Texas. It too, was surrounded by an active, go-ahead community, and flourished to the outbreak of the war.

We next come to Haynesville. The original name of the place was Taylor's Store, for J. C. Taylor, who opened a small retail business there in 1848. Previous to that date, in 1843, Hiram Brown had located close by, also J. C. Wasson and L. S. Fuller, in 1844. In 1846 Miles Buford and Samuel Boyd cast their fortunes in this settlement, and in 1849 Henry Taylor came among them. Yearly the settlement increased in numbers, and farms, large and small, were opened. In consequence of this increase in population and agriculture, Wm. W. and J. L. Brown began a mercantile business, next door to Taylor. Sam Kirkpatrick and Dr. Wroten opened a drug business. Up to 1848 very little of the public lands had been entered in this neighborhood, and farming was on rather a small scale. The country was full of game, and deer skins and hams were staple articles of trade. But with the rush of emigration that began in 1850 and which continued up to 1860, new ideas came, new wants and new



industries. Agriculture began in earnest, and in a few years large farms were in every direction, the public lands were all entered, roads opened and a mighty prosperity was exhibited all through the region.

Summerfield, situated in the northeastern portion of the parish, is a thriving village of about one hundred and twenty inhabitants. It was settled by W. R. Kennedy in 1868, by the erection of a wood and blacksmith shop, and a business house. It now has four stores dealing in general merchandise and plantation supplies, several drug stores, a saw and grist mill, and several mills in the vicinity, all run by steam. It has four churches, M. E. Church South, Methodist Protestant, Missionary Baptist, and Primitive Baptist, all with live and progressive congregations. The town has a good school building, with a good and regular attendance of pupils. The four stores do an aggregate business of about fifty thousand dollars annually. The town has two mails a week. The country around is in a prosperous condition, and with good water, pure air, good health, and a fertile soil. Summerfield and its neighborhood offer strong inducements to those hunting homes. The land is well timbered, and can be bought at from one to five dollars per acre. The agricultural future of this section of our parish is bright for him who puts his heart in his farm work and will use progressive methods of tillage.

About six miles east of Homer is located the beautiful village of Arizona. Soon after the war a magnificent cotton factory was erected at this place, capable



of employing a large number of hands. Its inconvenience to easy and rapid transportation, with other trouble, caused it to cease operating after a few years. It is now owned by John Chaffe of New Orleans, and is motionless. Arizona for a number of years, was the seat of Arizona Seminary, a very popular and flourishing school under the principalship of J. W. Nicholson, now the eminent Professor of Mathematics in the State University at Baton Rouge. Notwithstanding the discontinuance of the factory, and the decadence of its school, Arizona has held many of its best citizens, the Willises, Wafers, Nicholsons, Drs. Calhoun and Baker, Dutcher, Corrys, etc., and is happily blessed with a surrounding community of thrift, morality, and intelligence. In addition to the school and factory buildings, Arizona has one or more stores in operation, and a large and excellent meeting-house, the property of the M. E. Church South, in which large and intelligent congregations meet regularly for religious worship.

Tulip, another small village, situated about nine miles southeast of Homer, was, until quite recently, a fine trading point. Here for many years, P. Marsalis & Sons have carried on a heavy general merchandise and supply business; but lately much of their custom has been drawn to Arcadia, a rising town on the V. S. & P. Railroad, twelve miles south; and to meet the exigencies brought about by this change, they have moved the greater portion of their business to that place. Besides its store and post-office, Tulip owns a



steam saw and grist mill, a steam cotton gin, a school-house, and a commodious and very good Methodist meeting-house. There are a number of other steam cotton gins and saw mills in the immediate neighborhood, no less than five or six steam whistles being in easy hearing of the place. Tulip is noted for the steady and church-going habits of its people, and for the permanence and excellence of its school. The neighboring lands are among the most productive in the parish, and are occupied by a class of industrious and thrifty citizens. Among the old settlers, we may mention the Watsons, Marsalises, Whites, Gandys, Fomby, Leslie, Hays and others.

The water shed of Claiborne is quite simple; Dorcheat carrying the water from the western slopes to Red River and D'Arbonne and Corni to the Ouachita River from the eastern slope. From D'Arbonne east the country is gently rolling, but from D'Arbonne to Sugar Creek south, the ridges are more sharply defined, particularly near the bayou, as well as the valleys and plains. This portion of the parish was very thrifty in the anti-bellum days, and claimed the largest farms and heaviest tax-payers, of whom I recall the names of W. A. Obier, S. P. Gee, J. W. Andrews and B. C. Frazier. The Sugar Creek and adjoining lands were fine, and here were to be found the Hood family from Alabama, Buck Edmunds, Perritt, Howard, Snider, Landers, Robinson and many others; here their numerous industrious descendents are yet to be found.



We cannot close these notes of the early days in Claiborne without refering to two or three characters among the living and the dead.

James Dyer, who represented this parish in the State Legislature when the country was in its primeval state left just after the war, an old gray-headed man, with his young wife and several children, for Texas. He has been dead for some years.

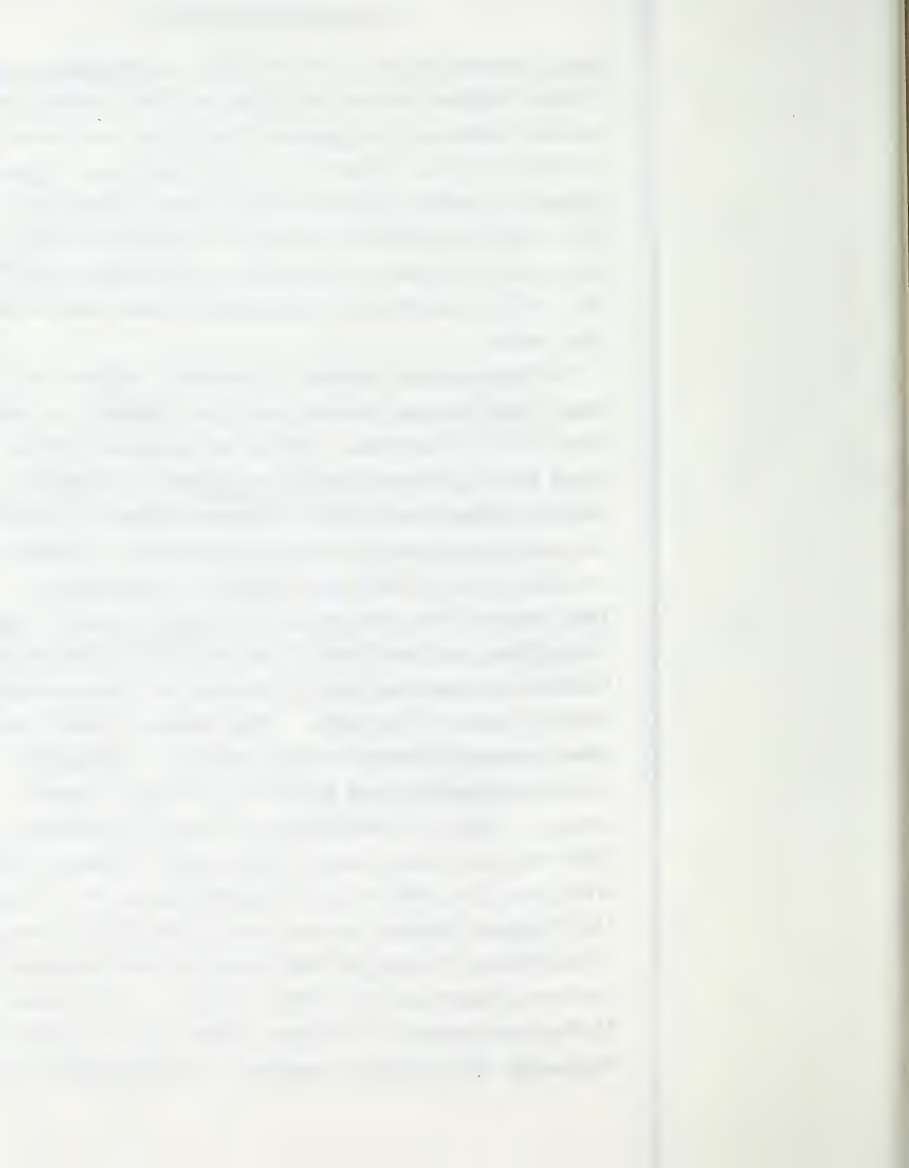
Josephus Barrow, a leading man in the Primitive Baptist Church, and who died six or eight years ago, was a worthy man and well qualified. He was a good neighbor and an active citizen, possessed of strong natural ability, considerate in the discharge of all his duties in obedience to the law of his God, as he understood it. He was steadfast in his friendship, his word was his law, provided for his family, left them a competency and has many children to revere his memory and follow in his path of truth and honor.

Joshua Willis, yet with us, a native of Virginia, but from Troup County, Georgia, to this parish, now in his 90th year, belongs to that modest but true type of Virginia gentlemen, that secures the regard and esteem of all good people. He has a numerous family of sons and daughters, grand and great grand children around him. Courteous in manner, even in his temper, just in his ways, he can truly say he is ready to leave without an enemy. His good wife, Aunt Barbara, who had stood by his side aiding and encouraging in all the vicisitudes of his long life, has gone to her happy home. And now, as this upright old



man, veteran of the War of 1812, a pensioner of the United States, nears the apex of that mount which stands before all the human family, he no doubt feels in his heart that when his eyes look out upon the pleasant, restful plains of the true promised land, that wife who was the soul and the pride of his young days, and his prop and stay in the hard toils of this life, will be the first to greet, as of yore, and welcome him home.

But here comes another character before us, with head gray but not bowed, and eye flashing as ever—Capt. W. G. Coleman. Genial in manner, with a good word for all, he was and is yet a son of Carolina. An ardent subscriber to the Calhoun school of politics, in his early manhood he was an outspoken nullifier, and in older years a bold and defiant secessionist. His first taste of war was as a volunteer, under Captain Jarnigham, in the Creek War of 1837. Returning to Carolina he married, and in his native State remained till the death of his wife. The charms of old Carolina now became dimmed to his eyes, and with his four children he emigrated in 1844 to Perry County, Alabama. Here he contracted a second marriage, and this wife, who has borne him eight children, is yet with him. In 1846, when Mexico declared war against the United States, he was one of the first to respond to his country's call, at the head of one hundred gallant men, known as the Perry Rangers. He joined Col. Coffee's regiment of Alabama volunteers, and with that regiment, for twelve months, was engaged in all its



marches, hardships and battles. And here let us not fail to recall the name of his faithful body servant, Sep. Although in a free country and other servants fleeing to the Mexican lines, Sep stood fast by his master, nursed him in sickness, faithfully administered to his wants when worn down with fatigue and exposure, and not only to him but to others of the company when he possibly could. He had the good will and confidence of all the men, became the custodian of their little treasures and never betrayed a trust. Returning home with his master, he died in his arms, and as his glazing eyes looked up into that kind master's face for the last time, that master's stricken heart blessed the faithful Afric son. In 1850, Capt. Coleman moved to Claiborne Parish, and being fond of the chase greatly enjoyed the rare sports of the day. In 1854, he with Col. J. W. McDonald, in a hotly contested campaign, as the Democratic candidates, gained a signal victory over the then rampant Know Nothing party. He has refused all political preferment since. When the war of secession was about to commence he, being too old to serve, drilled several volunteer companies previous to their march to the front.

Capt. Coleman joined the Missionary Baptist Church at Lisbon in 1854, and was elected clerk of the church. For twenty-three years he has as promptly taken his seat at the desk as he did at the head of his company when the long roll called it to arms on the arid plains of Mexico. Always fond of company, always a good



neighbor, his friends are many. Having ever been temperate in his habits, he now, although in his 80th year, writes a clear and even hand, and can yet bring down his bird on the wing as often as the best shots among our young men. Without enemies, with hosts of friends, he now serene and happy, awaits the bidding of the Master, summoning him to the great church above.

Another character who appeared in this parish between 1830 and 1840, and is yet with us, is Col. John Kimball. A Georgian by birth, in his young manhood he sought this part of the western world, and by strict attention to duty and business, secured to himself a competency and hosts of friends. He represented this parish in the State Legislature in 1855-56 with credit to himself and satisfaction to his people. He is now an old man, feeble in strength, but with a heart strong as ever; yet a tiller of the soil and with honor untarnished, he is beloved by many and respected by all.

Nathan Brown, with his wife and four children, left Tennessee in 1833, crossed the Mississippi River at Memphis, from which point he made his way slowly through the wilds of Arkansas—camped a day or two where now stands the flourishing town of Prescott—in amazement gazed at the magnificent meteoric display in November of that year, and in the timbered lands on their route had frequently to cut their way and as often dig down the banks of streams or bridge them before crossing, finally landing at or near Crys-



tal Springs, in Claiborne Parish. Here he remained about five years, when he settled down at his home, near Haynesville, where he has resided since. Prospering in this world's goods, he reared a large family of sons and daughters—sixteen only—thus enlarging the little family that left Tennessee toward a regiment in number. Mr. Brown, after an absence of fifty-two years, returned to Tennessee on a visit to a sister whom he left a young married woman. She is now a grandmother. Old and stricken in years, but with honest hearts and clear consciences, this brother and sister meeting will they recognize each other—can they recall the young manly and sweet womanly faces that separated so many years ago in Tennessee, when life's young morning was bright, and so full of promise?

Almost weekly can be seen on the streets of Homer, the tall, erect form of Isaac Gleason. He came from the swamps of the Mississippi and Ouachita to this Parish in 1835. Born on the frontier and there raised, he is one of nature's unsophisticated children, warm-hearted, liberal, just, doing evil to none. All around Homer, in the D'Arbonne bottom was his hunting grounds, and many are the bear, panther, turkey and deer that have fallen at the crack of his long flint and steel Kentucky rifle. He claims to have killed the last bear that was killed on the grounds of Homer. Nature was his school, and he has culled much profound knowledge therefrom, knowledge by experience, which others only obtain by reasoning. Uncle Isaac has raised a good family of sons and daughters, has



given his daughters every advantage the schools of Homer could offer, and now he can safely point to all his children with pride, for they have taken their places among the just and the good.

As another of our old and honored citizens, we may mention Col. J. W. Berry, who came to Claiborne in 1834, when a mere youth. In 1836 and 1837 he resided at Overton. In 1838 he moved to Minden and engaged in merchandising, which he continued till near the commencement of the war. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with many positions of trust. In 1847 he was elected 1st Lieutenant of a company of militia, and commissioned by Governor Isaac Johnson. In 1849 he was appointed on the staff of General Gilbert, of Shreveport; was elected to the Legislature in 1851; elected Colonel of Claiborne Regiment in 1855; re-elected to the Legislature in 1860; appointed Colonel in the Confederate service, and assigned to duty as enrolling officer of Claiborne Parish; and was again returned to the Legislature in 1864. Since the formation of Webster in 1871, Col. Berry has resided in that parish, and has been constantly honored with public trusts.

Among the early settlers of Claiborne Parish, who yet live, is W. F. Moreland. Engaged in agriculture, he has never sought political preferment, but at the request of his people has served them in both Houses of the Legislature. In these positions he discharged the duties with marked judgment and ability, and to the satisfaction of his constituency. In 1879,



with Rev. J. T. Davidson, he represented the Parish in the Constitutional Convention, and his course was heartily endorsed by the people. Pure and -irreproachable, he has passed through the trying ordeals of public life with honor unsullied; and honored of all who know him, he is now spending the evening of his life in the quiet of his country home.





CHAPTER IX.

GERMANTOWN—ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND FINAL DECAY.

This is a town or settlement, the history of which is full of interest, embracing much that is romantic; and could all the details be had, the events would be thrilling. In 1830, and for some years previous, Germany had become infected with revolutionary ideas that were then declared wild and dangerous, and many of which, when attempted to be carried out, proved altogether visionary. Among others who became involved in these schemes was the Count Von Leon. His liberal movements or ideas were declared treason. He was arrested, tried, and condemned to die, but a powerful influence which then pervaded all Germany came to his rescue, and his life was spared. This mighty influence emanated from the Masonic order. Count Leon had taken the highest degrees, and in his own state or principality, was the head of the order. Through this influence his sentence was commuted to perpetual banishment. Bowing to this cruel, though merciful sentence, as to the matter of life and death, in 1831 Count Von Leon of the principality of Hepsburg, and Madam the Countess Von Leon, daughter of one of the merchant princes of Frankfort on the Rhine, looking for the last time on their native land, turned their faces to the west, giving up all the



comforts and luxuries of wealth and refinement for an untried and unknown home in far off America. Perhaps there are a few of our old people, from the states east of the Mississippi River who raised in wealth and all its comforts, but were suddenly reduced therefrom, can realize and sympathize with the miserable change that thus suddenly occurred in the life of this family, aggravated too by knowing that a return to their old home was forever forbidden.

Embarking at the nearest seaport, Count and Madam Leon, accompanied with about 300 persons, who came with them as colonists to build up a new home in untrammelled America, without accident or mishap on the sea, safely landed in the City of New York. Resting here a while and the better to determine whither to go, the company moved down into Pennsylvania, in the neighborhood of Pittsburg, where it remained two years. Becoming dissatisfied on account of the harshness of the climate and the indifference or cold welcome meted out to them, some of the company removed to Ohio and other northern states. But the main body, following the fortunes of the Count and Countess, determined to seek a milder climate than was to be found in the northern portion of United States. Having determined to make Louisiana their home, they gathered up their stores, and after a long and arduous journey, in which they endured many hardships and much suffering, they landed safe near Natchitoches, on Red River. Here they located and commenced business; but soon the colony fell



victims to swamp fever of the most malignant type. Count Leon and the most of his followers died and were buried here, on the banks of the Red River—not under their native linden trees, but under the stately cotton wood, and the solemn cypress. The Count and the most of his faithful followers now sleep that long, dreamless sleep, in unknown graves somewhere on the banks of the Red River. No friendly hand can ever decorate their graves, but with each returning spring the wild flowers will bloom over them, and the tall cypress will keep ward over them till the morning of the resurrection.

How lonely and sad the Countess now weeping in a strange and far off wilderness, over the grave of her husband! One of Louisiana's noble representatives in Congress introduced and had passed a bill donating the colony a good body of land in Claiborne Parish. The colony was very wealthy when it left Germany, but they had spent a large sum for implements and equipments which were all lost, together with much of their jewelry and fine furniture. A large part of this wealth was sunk in barge boats on which they travelled. The last articles of value which the Count owned was a beautiful set of Masonic regalia, set with precious stones, and valued at \$6,000. This was sold to the Catholic Church at Natchitoches, and is, we believe, still in its possession.

The Countess now, after a stay of about two years on Red River moved with the remnant of the colony to Claiborne Parish, and settled on the land donated



by Congress, which lies about twelve miles southwest of Homer. When they reached their destination, there was not the sign of a habitation to receive them, nor to be seen in that vicinity. The only road near was the military road from Natchitoches to Fort Smith in Arkansas. Brought up in towns, these people knew nothing of country life; but they went to work with willing hands and brave hearts, and soon built themselves rude log houses to protect themselves from the storms of winter and the heat of summer.

The colony still had its own minister, physician, mechanics, etc., and of course held everything in common. Here the colony engaged in agriculture and merchandizing, and succeeded well. Their mercantile business was small at first, but gradually increased till in 1870, they did a business which aggregated \$100,000. Their business was conducted on the credit system, and a large number of their customers failing to settle, in 1871 they failed. Had they enforced collections, they might have continued to prosper financially; but recalling to mind their own distresses years before, and the aid and sympathy extended to them at that time, they deeply sympathized with their customers, who had lost their all in the great civil war, and they could not find in their hearts to oppress them. Noble Countess! that old ledger is her grandest monument.

Countess Leon left Germantown in 1871, went to Bastrop, La., and resided a while there with her daughter. From Bastrop, she moved with her



daughter to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where in 1881, she died at an advanced age.

The Count Leon had but one son—a noble young man, greatly admired by all who knew him. He died while yet young, in 1870, we believe of yellow fever, near Vernon in Jackson Parish.

A few months ago the writer of this sketch visited the scene of this old settlement. The store and shops in which the former inhabitants did business, are all gone. In a small house near, we found an aged gentleman—Wm. Stakousky—a native of Germany, and one of those who came over with the Count Leon. The old gentleman is a fine scholar and well read in both German and English literature. At our request he recited the history of the colony, and gave it an interest we have wholly failed to transfer to these pages.





CHAPTER X.

MINDEN—ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND PRESENT STATUS.

Prior to February, 1871, at which time the Parish of Webster was created, the town of Minden was embraced within the limits of Claiborne; its mention may therefore be properly included in this work.

This beautiful and thriving little city was founded in the year 1837, by Charles H. Veeder. Veeder was a man of great energy and enterprise. At that time Claiborne included the greater portion of the territory of North Louisiana lying between the Ouachita and Red Rivers, and a movement being on foot to divide the parish, which would necessitate the removal of the parish seat, Mr. Veeder worked hard to have the new Court-house located at Minden; and it was principally through his efforts that an appropriation was secured from the State to build "Minden Academy." Thus may be claimed for him the honor of having been one of the originators and the chief promoter of this institution, which was subsequently changed to Minden Female Seminary, and that later to Minden Female College. Defeated in his efforts to get the Court-house, and failing financially, Mr. Veeder soon after left the country. He died at Bakersfield, California, September 6, 1875, at the age of 79 years. The following extracts from an obituary notice published in the Weekly Courier of that place, will be interesting to



those who knew him: "Col. Veeder was born in Schenectady, N. Y., Oct. 1st, 1796. He was educated at Union College, Schenectady, and adopted the profession of the law. At an early age he sought service in the War of 1812, served with distinction, and was a pensioner of the government to the time of his death for services rendered in that struggle. He was of a restless disposition, and constantly sought excitement in new and stirring scenes. He travelled the West and South pretty thoroughly, figuring at various times in Indiana, Ohio, Louisiana and Texas, and finally finding his way to California in 1849. Here he lived in Vallejo, Sonoma, Mendocino, and eventually came to this place. Col. Veeder was a man of large intelligence, warm sympathies and kindly instincts, and his loss will be generally deplored."

Adam L. Stewart, who sold to Veeder, was probably the first white man to occupy the ground on which Minden stands. The first merchants to follow Veeder were Wilson & Wells; Lee & Co.; Morrow, Berry & Co.; W. A. Drake, Sr.; and Myers Fisher. Soon after these came John Chaffe, Foster Robinson, Berry & Thompson, Harvy Drake, Wm. Oliver, D. & J. H. Murrell, and others. Minden's first lawyers were E. Olcott, Tillinghast Vaughn, D. L. Evans, G. W. Peets and Andrew Lawson; and her first physicians were Wills, Pennell, Williams, and D. M. Farland. Dick Thompson was the first hotel-keeper. His hotel stood where T. B. Neal's old brick store now stands. The first business house erected in Minden was on the site



of the handsome brick store now occupied by Leary & Crichton. The site of the old Minden Academy is now occupied by Minden Female College. Minden's first newspaper was conducted by a Mr. Craig, and was Democratic. The first church was built by the Methodists in 1839; the next by the Baptists in 1841. The Catholic church was established in 1867, and the Protestant Episcopal in 1870. Of the pioneer citizens of Minden, Col. J. W. Berry, Dr. Dan M. Farland, Wm. Hardy, E. Etter, and David Canfield are about all that remain in the place. A few linger yet in other homes; the rest have gone to the silent shore.

In 1871, Minden became the parish seat of Webster, a new parish organized that year from portions of Claiborne, Bossier and Bienville. The present Court-house was built immediately after the incorporation of the parish, at a cost of \$25,000, and is one of the finest structures of the kind in this portion of the State. In addition to its handsome Court-house, Minden has many beautiful residences, and numerous large and substantial brick stores, all of which indicate the cultivated taste and solid prosperity of its people.

The excellent location of Minden as a trading point, added to the liberal and progressive policy of its merchants, assured it a prosperous business career from the beginning. We have no figures to show the extent of its trade prior to 1882, but in that year there were shipped from the town 22,000 bales of cotton, of which 15,000 bales were handled by its own merchants.



In 1883, the shipment was 15,000 bales, of which its merchants bought 10,000. In 1884 the receipts were 10,000, and the purchase 9000. During the last ten years the annual receipts have averaged fully 15,000 bales, of which its merchants have handled about 10,000. Minden's average annual sales of merchandise during this period, have aggregated fully half a million.

The decline in business in 1883 and 1884 was owing to the changes wrought, first, by the extension of a branch of the Paramore Railroad to Magnolia, Ark., which town, in consequence, has controlled about 5,000 bales of cotton that had formerly gone to Minden; and secondly, by the completion of the V. S. & P. road running five miles south and cutting down its receipts another 5,000 bales.

Such heavy inroads upon their business would have discouraged and paralyzed many, but not so with these people. They were equal to the emergency. Nobly, and with their accustomed zeal and activity, did they go to work and build a tap connecting them with the V. S. & P. R. R., which they have now completed at a cost to themselves of nearly \$50,000 and which connects them with every train on the main line. They have also succeeded in impressing the V. S. & P. R. R. authorities that Minden can control a large amount of business for their road, which, until the completion of the tap, had gone to Magnolia. This together with the fact that it is more to the interest of the V. S. &



P. road to have business concentrated at Minden than to meet the strong competition at Shreveport, has induced it to give a through rate of freights to and from Minden for less than that of any other town along its line. To compensate the V. S. & P. for this concession, the Minden men have agreed to do all their shipping by rail, not patronizing the boats at all, believing that the rates they have obtained from the road are about as low as they formerly were by boat.

The merchants of Minden repudiate the idea of the railroads having done anything for them as a favor but claim that its geographical position has made Minden a competitive point; not, however, to the extent of Shreveport, but sufficiently so to entitle it to the comparative freight rates given.

These advantages Minden now enjoys, and the high financial standing of its business men, and the energy and pluck displayed by them in laying out \$50,000 in cash on their branch road, and this just after the loss of \$40,000 by the burning of some 1200 bales of their cotton two years ago, and the financial embarrassment occasioned by the failure of some of their friends in New Orleans last spring, are a sufficient guarantee that Minden is to be herself again. She will ship fifteen to eighteen thousand bales of cotton this season, (1885-86), and with a good crop next year, 25,000 bales are the figures set by her merchants. Minden claims that she should handle all the cotton in Webster Parish, and in the west half of Claiborne; and will contend for the trade of Bienville Parish lying around



Ringgold, and believes that hereafter, in time of low water, a considerable amount of cotton will come to her from Red River below Loggy Bayou. Minden is amply able to pay cash for all the cotton brought to her, and with her reduced freights, she is certainly a formidable competitor of the towns along the line of the road; and when the known liberality and progressiveness of her merchants are taken into the account, there is very strong additional inducement for farmers to patronize her market.

For her educational advantages, Minden is not surpassed by any town in the State, nor, as for that matter hardly any where else. Her Female College is one of the oldest institutions west of the Mississippi River, giving superior education to young women. Its alumni, widely scattered over the State, have always maintained the high position the College holds in the public estimation. They are among the most honored wives and daughters of her citizens. Many of them have achieved distinction as writers of prose and poetry, and some of them are among the best female teachers in the State. A brief history of the school, we are sure, will be interesting to the reader.

In 1838, Minden Academy was organized and was successively conducted by Rev. R. T. Baggs, Henry M. Spofford, Prof. Burke, Rev. Wm. Brooks and Rev. W. H. Scales. In 1850, the name was changed to Minden Female Seminary by organizing it under the first Board of Trustees.

The first Principal of the Seminary was John



S. Garvin, who took charge in September, 1850. He did not finish a scholastic year, but resigned and left it in charge of some of his associates, who were assisted by J. D. Watkins, then one of the principals of the Minden Male Academy—his associate being A. B. George. Of these teachers, Mr. Spofford subsequently became one of the eminent Supreme Judges of La., and Mr. Watkins, a Judge of the District Court—now one of the most distinguished jurists of the State. Mr. George is now one of the eminent Judges of the Court of Appeals.

In 1853, a new Board of Trustees was formed, who elected Mr. S. L. Slack as principal. Under his administration the name was changed by Act of Incorporation to Minden Female College. President Slack began his administration by securing funds and erecting the main buildings of the College, and no man ever brought to it more zeal, energy and ability. The buildings erected under his supervision show the wisdom of his plans.

President Slack resigned and was followed by J. Franklin Ford. This gentleman succeeded in having two additional buildings added to the College—one, the large Concert Hall, the other, a large building for boarders. Under the administration of President Ford, which lasted six years, the college was in a most prosperous condition. In February, 1862, he resigned, and was succeeded by J. E. Bright, D. D. Dr. Bright was a scholar of rare attainments, and a minister of great celebrity. A large number of pupils



from every part of the State attended while he was in charge. He served as President eight years, resigning in January, 1871.

The next President was Rev. T. B. Russell, who served only one year, resigning on account of ill-health. After the departure of Mr. Russell, the Board employed Miss Mildred Boyle, as Principal. Miss Boyle had been one of Mr. Russell's associate teachers, was a graduate of the College, and had taken the first honors of her class. She managed the institution very successfully until failing health compelled her resignation.

In 1876, Col. Thos. O. Benton, formerly of the law firm of Garrett, Benton & Slack of Monroe, La., was elected President. Col Benton, a profound lawyer and elegant scholar, held the position three and a half years. Resigning, he was succeeded by Col. George D. Alexander, who was elected President for five and a half years. Col Alexander entered upon the discharge of his duties in February, 1879, and the term of his office will expire with the scholastic year 1885-86. He is a gentleman of erudite scholarship, and the reputation of the college has increased greatly under his administration.

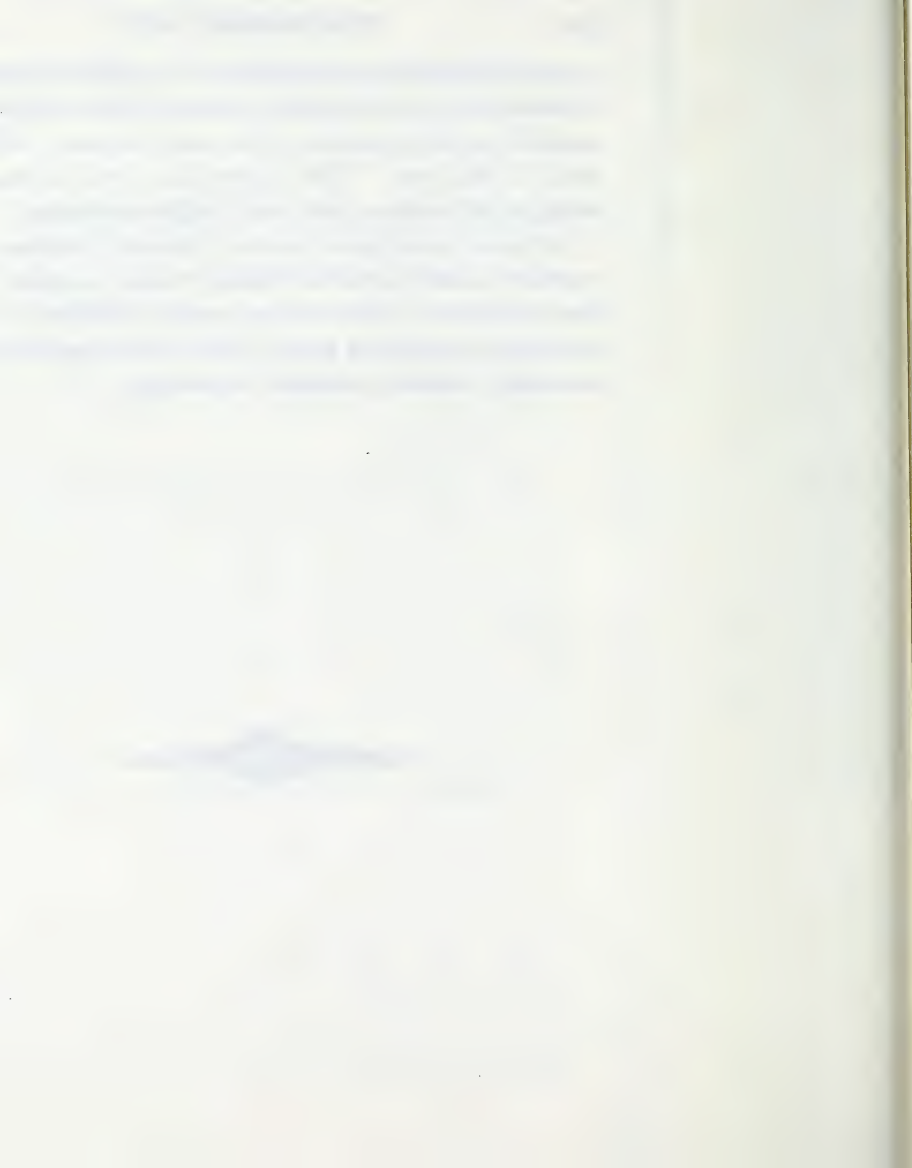
The old Minden Academy, erected mainly through the agency of Charles H. Veeder, was, as we understand, a school for both boys and girls. When it was changed to Minden Female Seminary, in 1850, provision was made for the separate education of boys. The present Male Academy was built about that time



mainly through the liberality of W. A. Drake, Sr., who donated the sum of \$1500 for that purpose, thus putting himself on record as one of the benefactors of Minden, and of his race. This school has been in charge of many able teachers, and has a high reputation.

Its pure water, good health, pleasant location, fine residences and beautiful shade trees, together with the literary air of its citizens, render Minden a most desirable place for a home, where both daughters and sons may receive a finished education.





CHAPTER XI.

HOMER.

The burning of the court-house at Athens in 1848, made necessary a new building for the administration of law and justice. The spread of the population in all directions, but particularly toward the northern and eastern sections of the parish, made it incumbent on the authorities to select a more central location for the new public buildings. After duly canvassing the claims of the several localities presented, the site on which now stands the beautiful town of Homer was approved. Considering its central position and easy approach from all directions, together with the natural beauty and healthfulness of its situation, the locality was happily chosen. On a plateau gently rising from the D'Arbonne on the north and Corni Creek on the south, and overlooking for miles the surrounding country, the site, in all of its native beauty, was most inviting. A generous donation from Allen Harris and Tillinghast Vaughn, to whom the property belonged, quieted all opposition.

Homer embraces an area of one square mile, including a portion, each, of Sections 23, 27, 25 and 26 in Township 21, of Range 7 west. At the time this site was chosen, it was in a state of nature. No undergrowth was to be seen, and wide and meandering vistas were every where in view—the massive oak and



the high reaching pine standing like sentries to guard the charms nature had vouchsafed to man. The woods were full of game of all kinds peculiar to this region, and the creeks and rivulets abounded in the many varieties of fish belonging to our southern streams.

Even before the town was laid off, rude habitations began to spring up here and there; but when it became known that the site of the new court-house was a settled fact, people began to move in rapidly, and the hum of the builder, the ax and the saw responding thereto, was heard on every hand. Wm. H. Maxey soon had up the first house, a small log cabin, just in front of the fine brick building he afterwards erected on the southeast corner of the public square. And in this rude cabin was preached the first sermon in the town of Homer, by an accredited minister of the gospel. The improvised court-house was set up just east of this cabin, and a boarding house, of the primitive order, was opened on the lot where now is the handsome residence of Mrs. McCranie. From this hostelry the judge, lawyers and attendants at court, at least all who could afford the luxury of a boarding house, would wend their way, by a circuitous pathway to the temple where justice was wont to be dispensed. But this state of things did not prevail long, for the rapid influx of population and wealth, with the consequent increase of business, urged upon the authorities the erection of a new court-house and offices. A fine building for those times, a two-story brick structure, was placed in the hands of the builders and soon completed.



Homer was built up rapidly. Before the stumps had been removed from the public square, every lot on its four sides was occupied by some sort of building, either complete or in course of construction. First was Col. R. W. Capers, whose store was on the northwest corner of the square. Ambitious to excel, and with the view of drawing custom, he had his large hewn log house finished inside with sawed lumber, hauled all the way on ox-wagons (the favorite mode of transportation at that time) from Eldorado, Arkansas, a distance of forty miles or more. Here he conducted a flourishing business down to the commencement of the war. Among the many buildings erected about this time, we must mention the "Claiborne House," a two-story hotel which stood north of the court-house, proudly overlooking its humbler neighbors. In the mean time, Maxey removed his little log cabin, and in its stead built a "Cheap Cash" business house. He succeeded well, building up from a humble beginning a fine and lucrative business. About this time the Wiles, three brothers, Sam, Mike and Alex, landed in Homer. With small means, but indomitable German pluck and thrift, they soon secured a handsome business, which they maintained to the commencement of the war. About this time also appeared A. McCranie, and on the southeast corner of the public square, in the house now occupied by E. L. Johnson, laid the foundation of the handsome competency left his wife and children. This A. McCranie was no ordinary man, active in business, a good judge of men, just and lib-



eral, he was endowed with all the faculties that make the man of success and note.

Among such an active class as were then concentrating in Homer and vicinity, of course there were to be found many true men imbued with the principles and familiar with the workings of that grand old Order, which has, for so many centuries, done so much to establish the brotherhood of man. In 1851, a number of these brothers came together and organized Taylor Lodge, No. 100, of Free and Accepted Masons. This Lodge flourished for a number of years, when, from some cause, not now known, it forfeited its charter. Immediately after this sudden ending of Taylor Lodge, the spirit of the Order rallied, and a number of the old members, acting under a sense of duty and obligation, inculcated by the ancient faith, asked for a charter, and in the fall of 1859, the present Lodge, (Homer Lodge, No. 152), was established. This Lodge crowned itself with enduring honor, when in 1859, it purchased the property of the Homer Female Institute, and renaming it the Homer Masonic Female Institute, placed it under the fostering care of the Fraternity. Under the long and able administration of Prof. Wilcox, and after his, that of Prof. Sligh and his accomplished and energetic wife, this school flourished many years. and sent forth from its walls many of the most brilliant and thoroughly educated women of North Louisiana. But the school no longer exists as a separate institution. Recently the citizens of Homer, and the Masonic Fraternity, becoming favorably impressed with the



plan of co-education, and believing it would be to the interest of both their schools to unite them, the Homer Masonic Female Institute and the Homer Male College were combined under the name of the Homer Masonic Male and Female College. The new institution has been placed in the charge of President Davidson, a gentleman of ability and culture, under whose administration, supported by an intelligent and progressive people, it bids fair to do nobly in the grand cause of education. The old Hall and buildings of the Institute are now silent, but in the Claiborne College building, a commodious and substantial brick structure, assemble for instruction, many of the young ladies and gentlemen, and boys and girls of old Claiborne.

During the happy and prosperous years of Homer, before the war, were organized the Methodist and Baptist churches of Homer. Each denomination erected commodious buildings for their numerous congregations. The ministers were earnest and zealous, the members sincere and active. The original Baptist church still stands, a monument to the good brothers and sisters who built it, many of whom have gone to the silent land. The original Methodist Church was crushed by the great snow of December, 1876, but has been replaced by a much more commodious and handsome edifice.

Early in 1851, B. D. Harrison, a typo, of Talledaga, Ala., arrived in Homer. He lifted up his eyes and beheld all the country around, and pronounced it good. Encouraged by the prospects, in June of that year he



issued the first number of the *Claiborne Advocate*, which, under the editorial management of Frank Vaughn, and afterwards that of J. M. Thomason, became a success, and a power in the land. In 1855, Harrison sold the *Advocate* to W. S. Curstis, who continued its publication until the exigencies of the war forced its suspension. Another paper was started in 185-, but soon failed. In 1859, W. Jasper Blackman commenced the publication of the *Homer Iliad*, which became noted as one of the spiciest and most reliable papers in the State. The *Iliad* was strongly opposed to secession, and during the high political excitement of 1860-61, when passion held sway, and sober thought was in abeyance, and during the war which followed it spoke boldly and unyieldingly, when it could speak, in behalf of the Union's integrity. But the *Iliad* was forced under during this trying time. The war being closed, it reappeared, and after a further career of ten or twelve years, was discontinued. Its veteran editor is now in Little Rock, Arkansas, with the harness yet on him.

Immediately after the suspension of the *Iliad*, B. D. Harrison founded the *Claiborne Guardian*, and published this journal a number of years. During the most of these years, Drayton B. Hayes, Esq., a lawyer of ability, and a fine writer, edited the *Guardian*, and made it one of the best papers in the State.

Mr. Hayes died in Texarkana, Ark., December 25th, 1885, leaving a large circle of friends and admirers here to murmur at the sad decrees of fate.



Since the death of Mr. Hayes, J. E. Hulse, Esq., has edited the *Guardian*, which is now owned by D. M. Harris.

About the year 1857, the fine court-house which had been built at so much cost, for a new country, began to show signs of decay. Huge cracks opened in the walls, giving sure indication of an impending disaster. The police jury saw the danger, and the people being able and willing, the building was taken down, and with its remains were built a strong fire-proof office. In place of the demolished house, whose walls had echoed to the eloquence of such able men as B. and J. C. Egan, Jesse Jones, Hon. Henry Gray, T. and F. Vaughn, N. J. Scott, Allen C. Hill, J. M. Thomason, Monk, and others, who had met there in forensic combat, the present substantial and classic structure was erected.

This is a square edifice, two stories high. A wide colonade supported by twelve massive pillars, projects from the four sides, giving a pleasing and impressive effect, viewed from whatever side. The lower floor is intersected at right angles by two wide passages; in the four corners are the offices of the sheriff, the clerk and recorder, the grand jury and the petit jury. On the floor above is the large and well-lighted court room, where law, logic and eloquence still hold sway. Without exaggeration, this is one of the most substantial and sightly public buildings in all North Louisiana; one of which the parish may well be proud. Of the many legal giants that assembled within its



walls, in its early history, few remain. Of the old officers John R. Ramsey, and of the old lawyers, N. J. Scott, alone remain; the rest are gone—mostly to the grave. John Young, years ago, District Attorney, is now District Judge; General Gray is at Bastrop, and J. C. Egan at Coushatta.

The fertility of its soil with the thrift and enterprise of its inflowing emigration was well calculated to make Claiborne the banner parish of North Louisiana. When the war came Homer was crowded with business houses, and its trade extended over a wide area. Intelligence, refinement, and a high sense of honor characterized the whole people. Its schools were noted far and near, and many of the best-to-do farmers purchased town lots, built handsome residences, and brought their families to the village that they might reap the advantages of its schools. But few buildings now stand where the original settlers placed them. Where now stands the handsome cottage of R. W. Collier, that stirring and untiring man, J. C. Blackman built a handsome house. This has been removed further west and is now the home of J. M. White. Where Green Taylor built, is the comfortable residence of J. K. Willet. The huge old-time building on the hill, now occupied by Mrs. Vaughn, was erected by M. Green, and is still standing where originally placed. The old Bonning house yet stands, but is fast going to decay. That of Col. J. Kinnebrew has been removed. Thomason's house yet stands, and in place of the old log tavern is the commodious resi-



dence of Mrs. McCranie. G. T. Winn owns the handsome house erected by Col. Capers, and Mrs. Tillinghast Vaughn still lives in the old home of T. Vaughn, Esq. Of the old settlers Dr. Arbuckle is yet daily seen on the streets, if not away on professional duty. T. P. Hamilton and family, B. D. Harrison, and the wife, daughter, and son of Allen Harris are still in Homer. These are all that remain of the original settlers. The world and the grave have the rest.

During the war Homer was the resting place of many refugee families from the Mississippi bottoms. Here they congregated with a few servants and with the few household goods they could bring in their sudden flight. During these stirring years, life in Homer, though clouded with doubt, fear, and grief, was comparatively lively and pleasant. But all this changed when the war ceased. The refugee returned to his desolate home, the wearied soldier, poor but brave, to his impoverished land to renew the struggle in behalf of wife and children.

Homer, like all the Southern towns and villages, declined during the war, so far at least as her active business life was concerned. But in the latter part of 1865, the soldier citizens—that is, the few that were left—having returned home, and all having disposed of the little cotton left them by the ravages of war, and stimulated by hope and a determination to regain their lost wealth, business began to assume wonderful activity. Business houses opened all around the public square; dry goods, groceries, and liquors were on



sale at every house; the hungry and the naked, regardless of the war prices then prevailing, bought without stint, and prosperity seemed to smile on all the land. But the black soldiery, camped round about, and the official insolence that for months predominated, was not calculated to insure harmony and good will. The poor negro, bewildered by his sudden emancipation, thought that an enchanted life was before him, and all he had to do was to reach out his hand to be helped from the bounty of the general government. Eating, fiddling, dancing, and visiting was the only life for him; he abjured all regular work, and plunged into politics, parades, and processions; flags, drums and serenading fiddles were to be seen and heard in the streets of Homer for many months. But this illusion, turmoil and chaos gradually passed away. Strong houses sprang up, and business began to assume form and shape. At the southeast corner of the public square was Wm. H. Maxey, and on the extreme southwest corner, Dunston & Dansby. Reams & Clegg were at the northwest corner. Between these points were many houses of less note, but all appeared to do a lively and successful business. Repeated failures of crops, however, brought about disaster, and house after house failed or closed. Jonathan Ferguson assumed control of the old Planter's House and did a thriving business for a number of years. In time Gill & McCranie dissolved co partnership and sold their brick house to Otts & Barrow; but McCranie, too full of business to stop work, erected a spacious and hand-



some wooden store on the northwest corner, where prosperity seemed to bless every venture he made. The business of Dunston & Dansby was closed, owing to the death of the former, and their fine brick house was disposed of to J. C. Blackman and Hugh Taylor, (good Uncle Hugh,) which firm, for some years, did a fine business. On the death of Uncle Hugh the firm closed and the business went into the hands of George Taylor and H. C. Mitchell, who did a fine business until burned out in April, 1871. G. G. Gill did a good business at the corner store now occupied by W. G. Taylor. Reams & Clegg having closed out their business, the old Caper's House, where so much business had been done, now became vacant.

Notwithstanding the trials of the war, and the evils resulting from the political changes which followed, Homer became one of the most prosperous towns in North Louisiana. Agriculture was yielding good crops, the freedman was working better, his political career was about ended, and necessity had taught him that to live he must work. The schools of the town were in a flourishing condition, the rude and bad element that had congregated about the place had mostly disappeared, refinement and the religious element had resumed sway, and peace and prosperity were promising to bless the town, when at about 2 o'clock, a. m., on the 22d December, 1876, the fire bells rang out, and the startled citizens were aroused from their slumbers to see smoke and flame rising high above their dwellings and stores. This fire originated



at the south end of the west side of the square, spread north, and turned east, consuming entirely the west and north side of the square; and had not the walls of the McCranie two-story building at the east end of the north side of the square, been so firm and solid as to confine the flames within its walls, the entire town would have been consumed, for when the flames reached this building, the wind turned south. By a mighty effort the flames were here staid, and the east and west sides of town saved. To add to the misery of the situation there commenced, on the night of the 26th of December, the heaviest snow storm on record in this portion of the country. When morning came the people were astonished and bewildered. The snow was two feet deep on a level, and continued to fall all of the 27th and to the 28th. Many sheds, barns, churches, and other buildings throughout the country fell beneath the pressure. The Homer Methodist Church, which had just been repaired and furnished, was crushed down. The roads became impassable, so that communication with the lumber mills was cut off. Every shanty that could give shelter was sought. Things indeed looked gloomy.

The loss by the fire was many thousands of dollars, and Homer was thought to be dead. Her people were indeed cast down, as who would not have been after such heavy and repeated misfortunes? But their native energy and pluck soon rallied them. In twelve months A. McCranie had erected a splendid fire-proof brick building in place of the wooden structure con-



sumed. W. J. Barrow did the same on his corner, and G. G. Gill bought the old Caper's lot and built his fine brick store. So the fire proved a blessing to the town, inasmuch as it secured in the places of the wooden structures three fine brick buildings, so spacious and imposing that they would be creditable even to a city. The other parts of the burnt district were also soon rebuilt. The old landmarks on the north and west sides of the square are gone, but Homer is all the better looking for the change.

The population of Homer is about 1,000. There are yet in operation ten establishments engaged in general merchandising. There are also two drug stores, two hotels, two livery stables, two blacksmith and wood shops, two newspapers and job offices, one shoemaker, two steam gins, and two steam grist mills. There are seven attorneys and four practicing physicians. The place has eight public roads leading from it, one hack line connecting it daily with the V. S. & P. R. R., and is the terminus of ten mail routes. It is blessed with one Methodist, one Baptist, and one Presbyterian church. The postoffice is a money order office, and issues, on an average, orders to the amount of \$75,000 a year. Mr. D. W. Harris, the present incumbent, has been in charge of the office about fourteen years.





CHAPTER XII.

HISTORY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
SOUTH, IN CLAIBORNE PARISH.

By Revs. John A. Miller and J. W. Wedlock.

In 1805, shortly after the purchase of Louisiana, Methodism was introduced into the State. Bishop Asbury sent Elisha W. Bowman, a young Kentuckian, to break ground here as the first missionary. He had seen service in the Northwestern Territory, was pious and courageous, and tackled bravely the difficulties of his new situation. At the end of the year he reported to his Conference a gain of seventeen members.

The next year Bowman was sent to the Ouachita Mission. Its boundaries embraced all the territory north and east of the Red River to the Arkansas line. Thus, while Thomas N. Lasley had been appointed to continue the cultivation of the mission field in South Louisiana, Bowman was to introduce Methodism into the hill country of the State. Of course the sparse settlements were scattered widely apart through this vast region, and the labors of the missionary were necessarily arduous. He succeeded in organizing a circuit, and it continued to be supplied by ministers from the Mississippi Conference from year to year, till the Louisiana Conference was organized.

In these early years Louisiana was included in the



Mississippi Conference, which embraced all the territory included in the three States of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Bowman and Lasley were followed successively by James Axley, John Henninger, and John S. Ford; but so slight had been their success, that at the end of 1823 all the Methodism in Louisiana was represented by 89 white members and 10 colored. In 1816 the State was still occupied by only two preachers, and they report to Conference 130 white members and 32 colored. But by conversion and immigration, and the zeal of godly local preachers, as well as the gradually increasing supply of itinerants, the prospects began to brighten, and in 1846 took place the organization of the Louisiana Conference. Henceforth, general prosperity attended Methodism in the State, till 1860, when it numbered in travelling preachers, 89; white members, 10,222; colored members, 7,489.

Some of our older citizens remember till yet the Rev. William Stephenson, ("Uncle Billy," as he was called,) who is generally regarded as the father of Methodism in this parish. He was born in South Carolina, and though forty-seven years of age when he became a travelling preacher, he yet gave thirty-nine years of most valuable service to the Church. He itinerated from Missouri, through Arkansas and Louisiana, to Texas. He was presiding elder on the Louisiana District from 1829 to 1833. He was particularly identified with the early progress of the Church here in Claiborne Parish. Here he lived for many years before his



death, which occurred about 1853, and brought up his family. He was a man of great purity of character, of more than ordinary ability for that day, and a very popular preacher. A son of his, James P. Stephenson, was also a preacher, and did valuable service, both as a travelling and as a local preacher.

It is difficult from the data which this scribe has in hand, to ascertain definitely the points at which and the times when the earliest organizations of Methodism took place in this parish.

Perhaps the earliest Methodist Church organized within what are now the bounds of the parish, was in the Hood settlement, in 1827. John Burnham, (father of John S. Burnham), was class leader. For a number of years this seemed to be the leading Methodist community, whence radiated the influences that gave Methodism existence in different parts of the parish.

In 1830 a church was organized at Ashbrook's school house, near the present site of Athens, William Ashbrooks, class leader. It is supposed that other organizations existed in the parish as early as this, but the facts are not easily gotten at.

About 1845 a log school house was built near the residence of Major Dyer, six miles east of where Homer was afterwards located. Here shortly afterwards was organized the first church of that neighborhood. In a few years the membership became strong enough to build them a house, and a commodious frame structure, John C. Blackman, contractor, was built a mile or so to the north, and long known as the

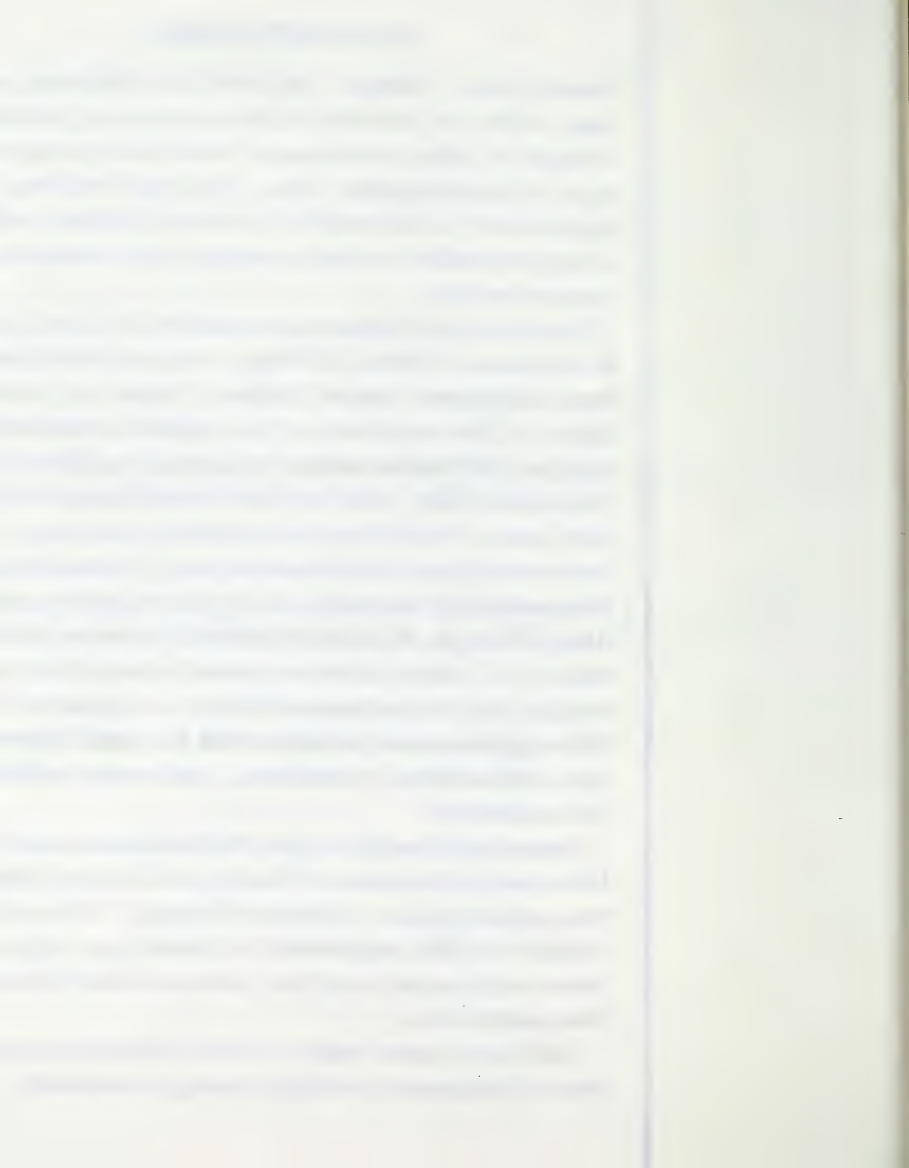


Forest Grove Church. In 1866 this building was taken down and removed to the new town of Arizona, a couple of miles to the south, which had just sprung up as a manufacturing town. The old building has been recently substituted by a new one, and one which is very creditable to the enterprise and liberality of the membership.

The church at Lisbon was organized in April, 1849, at the house of Thos. B. Wafer, one and a half miles from the present site of Lisbon. There are now at Lisbon of the survivors of the original organization, only Jas. McClendon and his wife, and Mrs. Eliza Cook. The membership there now are worshipping in their third house, which was built several years ago, but has recently been put in neat repair. Methodism in this community has had a steady and vigorous growth. Along through its history some of the most sterling men of the parish have composed a part of its membership, and the influences which have gone out from this religious center have resulted in untold blessings upon the material, educational, and moral welfare of the community.

Somewhere about this time Methodism must have taken root in the towns of Homer and Minden (Minden was at that time in Claiborne Parish). It is said the church was first organized in Homer in a log school house which stood near the present site of Dorman's blacksmith shop.

The first church built in Homer stood just in the rear of the present building, facing to the south. For



many years the flock assembled here to receive the word. Then the big snow of the winter of 1876 came and crushed it in. This gave us the present handsome building, Methodism must have begun in Minden a few years previous to its beginning in Homer. The present building there dates back at least near forty years, albeit it has undergone repairs and enlargement. The church in Minden in that early day was represented by such families as the Shields, Lackey, Harlys, Kennons, and Drakes, the decendants of whom are still prominent members of the community.

Haynesville Church was organized under a brush arbor. Mt. Zion in a log school house. The same beginning had the Colquit Church. The dates at which these organizations took place has not been obtained. At these different points now there are commodious houses of worship, and in these neighborhoods there are many of the leading citizens of the parish holding membership at them. Mt. Zion has for many years been noted for its Camp Ground, where annually "the tribes go up to worship." It also has a very creditable new house of worship. The very liberal hospitality of these brethern is widely noted, especially at the camp meeting seasons.

Summerfield Methodism had it srise in the Corni Bluff neighborhood about the year 1845. Rev. B. J. Hamilton, a local preacher, lived there at that time. and supervised the growth of the young flock. Among its first members were found such men as Colonel Tom Smith, Charley Thompson, and Anderson



Orr. That early church has its successor and representative now in the present membership of Summerfield, who love their own house and are organized in the various departments of church work.

The Alabama church, dates back to about 1846. There lived in that day in a little isolated settlement on the Middle Fork such representative men as W. B. Nicholson, Skinner and Quincy Boring. At first the Methodist itinerant in his rounds would call the families together, and worship in a private house, sometimes in one and then in another. Then a small log house was built, and here the settlers met from time to time to worship. In a few years other Alabamians came out; the Harpers, Kidds, and Dr. Gaskell. Then they fixed upon a more central location, built a church, and called it Alabama.

The church at Tulip is the final development of a series of organizations that went before it. In the year 1847 or 1848, William McCue settled in the neighborhood of the Dansby Place, and, with the assistance of a few others, built a log house in which was organized a small membership. As others began to move into the neighborhood. Rev. Jas. Watson, Josiah Watts, M. Kennebrew, William Oliver, and others, in order to have the church more centrally located, it was taken down and moved two miles further south. It there took the name, Walnut Grove. About 1855, a large frame building was erected about half a mile east to take the place of the log house, and to it was given the name of Pisgah. Here a



strong membership and an influential people worshipped till 1872, when the membership was divided for convenience, part going to unite with the Homer Church, while the other part built a new house at a cost of \$1,500 at Tulip. This is now recognized as one of the leading centres of Methodism in the parish.

The Athens church doubtless dates back to the Ashbrooks organizations. At first preaching places were in the neighborhood, and finally a church was built in town. It has undergone repairs of late years, and is now quite a neat and creditable building.

There are several other churches in the parish, as Whitehall, New Salem, Salem, Macedonia, Harmony Chapel, all of which are living and active organizations, regularly supplied with pastors, but the special facts of their history are not known to this writer.

One of the important agencies in the development of Methodism in this parish, not to be overlooked, is *Camp Meetings*. They very early came into play as a factor in the struggles of the Church in this parish. Camp meetings, like Methodism itself, were born out of the exigencies of the times. The zeal of the early itinerants, which kindled a like zeal in the settlers, constrained them to provide extraordinary means in giving the Gospel to the masses. Preaching places were too few and the houses too small to accommodate large numbers of people. This difficulty could be overcome only by establishing centrally located camps where there was good water supply, and



erecting there a large tabernacle, covered either with boards or brush, sufficient in capacity to shelter the throngs who would repair there to hear the singing notes of a free gospel. A generous and free hospitality was furnished always by the "tenters," and no doubt many came for the "loaves and fishes." But even these "fellows of the baser sort" were welcomed, so long as their behavior was tolerable, in the hope that even they might become stricken by some gospel arrow. And such often proved the case. Many who went only for fun and ridicule, came away with very different emotions. And some who proved to be most useful members of the Church, were converted out of this class at the camp meetings.

The first camp ground that was established in the parish, was near where Athens now stands, and dates back as early as 1832. It was the Ashbrooks camp ground, William Ashbrooks and John Burnham being the principal founders. About 1838, a camp ground was also established in the Burnham neighbourhood. It was here that John Pipes was converted. He is now one of the oldest and most respected members of the Louisiana Conference, and the only survivor of those who were enrolled as members at its organization in 1846. About the same time, Price's camp ground (grandfather of Capt. Thomas Price) was located near where Nathan Brown now lives. About 1851, camp meetings also began to be held in the Alabama neighborhood. A flourishing camp ground was established about 1858, some



eight miles north of Minden, called Cold Springs. Its existence was terminated by the adverse circumstances of the war. Since the war new camp grounds have been built at a few different points in the parish, but they have not been so popular as when churches were fewer and less commodious, and settlements more scattered. The only one at which meetings are held now is the Mt. Zion, seven miles north of Homer.

Methodism has always identified itself with the cause of education. Its own colleges and universities increase with the increase of its population. Through the influence and enterprise of such men as R. Randle J. C. Blackman, and Jos. T. Wafer, Claiborne parish Methodism founded for itself an educational institution. In 1855 the State Legislature passed an act chartering the Homer Male College, under the supervision of a board of trustees appointed by the Louisiana Annual Conference. In the following year the corner stone of the College building was laid. The site was well chosen, the location healthful; and the massive brick building stands there to day on an elevation over-looking the town of Homer. A large number of the first men of North Louisiana, composed its original board of trustees. The College was formally opened in 1859. Rev. Baxter Clegg, was its first president. He was assisted by J. W. Stacy, Prof. of Languages, and J. B. Gutter, Prof. of Mathematics. Rev. W. D. Shea, became president in 1860. Owing to embarrassments in consequence of the civil war. College exercises were suspended for a number of



years. In 1869, Rev. H. T. Lewis, assisted by Professors Borden and Wills, took charge. Rev. Jas. E. Cobb, became president in 1870. He was assisted by Professors A. C. Calhoun, J. W. Nicholson, and E. M. Corry. During the two years of his administration the College had quite a revival of prosperity. The Conference had appointed Rev. T. J. Upton, as its agent. He made a vigorous canvas in behalf of the College, and obtained for it, in addition to increased facilities in the way of library and apparatus, over \$40,000 in endorsement notes, the interest accruing alone to be used in defraying running expenses. But owing to the unsettled and unprosperous condition of the country generally, it was found difficult to collect the interest, and the Conference having advised the Board of Trustees against legal methods of collection, the College was left without support, and began again to decline.

During the period from 1873 to 1877, the College had as many as four successive presidents: Rev. J. Lane Borden, Rev. Baxter Clegg, (second term,) Dr. T. B. Gordon, and R. A. Smith. In 1878, the College was sold for debt.

Although Homer College had a brief and troubled existence, yet it was not altogether an unfruitful existence. It has no doubt yielded something towards elevating the moral tone of the community; its silent existence has been like a finger board, suggesting to young men the road to an honorable life; and besides these indirect influences, many young men all over the State,



now in honorable callings in life, hold from this institution their only passport into educated circles.

This sketch would not be complete without further allusion to the *personnel* of the Church in this parish. Did space permit, many incidents and personal reminiscences of an entertaining character might be given. But, as it is, very little more than a mere catalogue of names, dates, etc, can be given.

Perhaps no two preachers in any era of Claiborne Parish history more impressed themselves upon their times than did Richmond Randle, and Joel Saunders. They labored as contemporaries here from as early as 1838. Randle was more eccentric, more regular, and perhaps more profound as a thinker, and unyielding in conviction, than was Saunders. He was given to moods, and was sometimes very uninteresting as a speaker. And then again his oratory was like a tempest, and bore down every thing before it. He was a leading spirit in the early history of the Church in the State, was thoroughly loyal, given to much self sacrifice, and undaunted in the face of danger. He died in Kentucky, where he had gone as a chaplain in the army. Joel Saunders, was likewise a man of good influence. As a preacher, he was more on the pathetic order, and at times rose to the height of great power in the pulpit. He died in Texas, August 1st. 1883.

In those early days, Claiborne Parish embraced two circuits, the D'Arbonne and the Minden. In 1849, D'Arbonne Circuit was served by D. S. Watkins. He also preached in the parish in 1856. In 1850, R. M.



Crowson, was sent to Claiborne. He left the savor of a good name, and is kindly remembered to day by the old settlers. He recently died at his home in Sparta, at a ripe old age. John Pipes was sent into Claiborne by the Conference in 1855. Honorable mention has already been made of his name. In 1857, Benjamin Stezall, was here as preacher in charge. The two following years D. P. Cullen, preached in Claiborne. In 1860, C. W. Hodge. He is still a member of the Louisiana Conference, and is serving a charge in Webster Parish this year. T. H. McClendon, was here in 1861. He is a brother of our fellow parishioner, Jas. McClendon, and has for many years, been a faithful and esteemed member of the Conference. In 1862, we had a Brother Bolt, as a preacher in the parish. His history is unknown to this writer. The two following years W. D. Slayton, served here. He was a man of strong individuality, and did many years of service in the Conference. He died at Coushatta, a few years ago. In 1865, we had P. M. Goodwyn. He has been dead several years. His Brother E. Goodwyn, also served in the Minden portion of the parish several years previous to this. He is now a preacher of good standing in Texas, and a brother-in law to one of the best known Methodist ministers we ever had in this parish, the Rev. N. A. Cravens, who is also in Texas now. Cravens first came to the parish about 1864, and left the State for Texas in 1874, having given near ten years of service to the Church in the parish. He was here during a



part of the war and reconstruction period, a time that tried men's souls, and showed what manner of stuff they were made of. Cravens was equal to the emergencies of the times, and made for himself quite a name, both as a citizen and a minister of the Gospel. His was eminently a social temperament, and his fine conversational powers, great fund of anecdote, and general good humor, made his company much relished by all classes. He was a good judge of human nature, and this coupled with his fluency of speech, logical skill, and imaginative force, made him always popular and instructive, and often overpowering in his pulpit efforts. He had a way, when about to say something very forcible, of letting down one side of his mouth and driving his words eloquently through the other, which provoked a wag to say that "if Brother Cravens could preach as well out of one side of his mouth as he did out of the other, he would be the best preacher of the age." He will long be remembered as one of the greatest revivalists that Claiborne Parish ever had.

The Alexander brothers, P. L. Henderson, Jno. T. Truslow, W. C. Haislip, all labored here for short times each, but left their names honorably inscribed in the annals of Claiborne Methodistism. S. S. Scott, Samuel Armstrong, and W. D. Shea were identified with the interests of the Church here for a much longer term, and imparted much of their own personality to its character. They all went to serve the Conferences in Texas several years ago. Jno. A.



Miller, came here about 1863, and has been almost exclusively confined to labors within the parish ever since. * In later years the following other preachers came into the parish, and labored acceptably, some longer and some shorter times : T. J. Upton, J. W. Medlock, W. P. Kimball, R. Parvin, J. M. McKee, J. E. Cobb, J. H. Stone, J. A. Parker, R. T. Parish, Wm. Hart, Baxter Clegg, J. L. P. Sheppard, J. M. Davies.

Claiborne Parish Methodism has also been indebted during its history to the labors of a number of faithful local preachers. Among them may be mentioned Jas. T. Wopes, Jno. E. Blackman, Ephraim Pennington, B. J. Hamilton, J. R. Langston, Wm. Barnet, Dr. Gaskill, (who is now itinerating in Texas.) Jesse Ginn, J. L. Williams, J. H. Jordan, H. C. Winn, A. J. Walters, and J. M. Clements. As exhorters may also be mentioned the names of Fatum M. Wafer, Hugh Jones, and Gidian White. And the names of many laymen, both living and dead, deserve eminently to be enrolled upon the pages of a history of the Church in this parish. In addition to those mentioned in the earlier pages of this sketch, may be given the names of such representative men as Joshua Willis, Jonathan Taylor, Young D. Allen, Thos. Hightower, M. S. Kinabrew, Jno. and Jas Walker, E. O. Christian, Jno. Wilson, W. F. Mouland, John Holcomb, J. C. Calaham.

The Methodist Church in the South before the was provided religious privileges for the colored people,



and at one time its colored membership amounted to largely over two hundred thousand. But the unfriendliness between the two races brought about by the war and reconstruction, made it necessary that the colored membership of the Church South, should be set off to itself. This was effected in 1870. our Church by legislative provision having set them up to housekeeping, deeding to them all the Church property held for their benefit, and ordaining for them their first bishops. Since that time, the most friendly relations have existed between the two Churches. they affectionately acknowledging the White Church as their mother, and ever ready to seek her friendly aid and guidance. This gave origin to the independent Colored Methodist Church of Claiborne. They have now several organizations in the parish, and are pushing forward with commendable zeal their evangelistic labors among their people.

This sketch may properly be brought to a close by a breif statement of the present status of the Church as shown in the statistics within the present limits of the parish. It should be borne in mind that the following figures would be increased several fold were *all* the territory included that belonged to the parish when this history first began. In Claiborne Parish now there are four circuits, four travelling preachers, ten local preachers, and 1296 members. There are fourteen Sunday Schools, with 390 scholars. There are twelve Churches, valued at \$11,800; and three parsonages valued at \$1,500.



Last year was the Centenary year of American Methodism. Collections were taken every where in honor of the event. The special offering of Claiborne Parish Methodism for this object was \$1,557 15.

Addendum. For the year 1885 the Methodist Church in this Parish has the following ministerial supply: Presiding Elder, J. T. Sawyer (first year); Homer Circuit, J. W. Medlock (third year); Haynesville Circuit, J. A. Miller (fourth year); Tulip Circuit, J. L. P. Sheppard (first year); Summerfield Circuit, J. M. Davies (first year).

HISTORY OF THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH IN CLAIBORNE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

Louisiana Conference.

The First Quarterly Conference ever held in the State of Louisiana, convened in the upper story of the residence of Rev. Joseph Burns, in the Parish of Claiborne, Oct., 22, 1842.

The members composing this Conference were Rev. Elisha Lott, President of the Mississippi Conference, in the chair. Rev. Joseph Burns, Local Elder; Revs. William Lee and William E. Kersey, Local Preachers; Samuel C. Burns and William Stevenson, Class Leaders. At this Quarterly Conference, what was called Claiborne Circuit was organized, under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Annual Conference, with Rev. E. Fletcher as Pastor.

In the spring of A. D. 1844, another Quarterly Con-



ference was held by Rev. Elisha Lott, at a church called "Seventy-Six," in Claiborne Parish, La

The first Louisiana Annual Conference was organized at Annacoco, Vernon Parish, La., in the fall of 1845. The ministerial members present were Bev. Elias Carroll, President; Revs. H. M. A. Cassada; A. Rushing; Joseph Burns; Wm. E. Kersey; I. Ford; L. Presley and Wm. Lee.

The denomination continued to grow and prosper in Claiborne Parish and throughout the State, until the disasters of the late civil war scattered the flock and disorganized the Conference. But, at the close of the war, a re-organization was effected in the northern parishes of the State, and has continued to spread until a large Annual Conference has grown up in the State. And there are seven or eight churches in the Parish of Claiborne. J. M. P. Hickerson, D. D., LL. D. is the President of this Church in the State of Louisiana and resides in the Parish of Claiborne.

The denomination appears to be well established in the State, with an itinerant and local ministry in full operation and a steadily advancing increase of membership.

W. Y. MCCAIN,
Secretary of Conference.

HISTORY OF THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLAIBORNE PARISH.

*By N. S. Copeland, Elder J. B. McFarland, and other
members of the denomination.*

Providence Church was constituted on the 11th of June, 1825, some miles south of where Athens now



stands, by James Brinson, Peter Franks, Christopher Koonce, Patience Brinson, Barbry Walker, Patsy Brown, and Polly Koonce, covenanting together to meet on the second Lord's day and Saturday before in each month, to attend to the ordinances and other matters pertaining to the Lord's house.

In 1839 the church moved its place of meeting to Claiborne Academy in Athens. Not a great while after the church was moved to Athens, most of its members drew letters and moved away. In 1853 the church in conference passed a resolution allowing its members to call for letters of dismissal, and all but three asked for their letters and moved away, and the church went down. In 1859 the three members who remained in the community with some other persons who held letters from other Baptist churches, resolved to revive the old church under the name of New Hope, and succeeded in doing so. Since the revival of the church 150 members have been received. Elders James Brinson, Haywood, Alford, John Hill, Arthur McFarland, James Fuller, E. Strickland, Austin Harris, J. F. Henson, J. W. Melton, H. Phillips, J. B. McFarland, W. C. Moreland, H. Z. Ardis and W. P. Carter, have served the church as pastors. The church now numbers 106 members, and worships in a neat village church, with Elder D. H. Burt as pastor.

Not long after Providence Church was constituted Elders James Brinson and Arthur McFarland constituted a church near where Mr. John Murrell now lives, and called it Black Lake. In 1827 the first



Baptist Association that ever assembled in the parish was held in a log school house on the late Dr. Martin's farm near Germantown.

The Baptist Church in Mt. Lebanon was constituted July 9, 1837, by Elders H. Adams and William Hill, S. Quarles acting as Secretary, with the following male members and their families: Jeremiah Burnett, John Q. Burnett, W. D. Burnett, L. E. Burnett, H. Adams, William Key, Martin W. Key, Samuel Quarles, William Logan, W. A. Logan, Martin Canfield, James Canfield, Masion Canfield, D. W. Canfield, Joseph Canfield, J. M. Canfield, J. D. Canfield, Tripet Cason, Reuben Drake, R. H. Burnett and Elizabeth Gibbs and Mary Walker. Rev. Henry Adams was the first pastor of the Church.

Of the thirty-seven charter members only sixteen are now alive. Since the organization of the church 250 members have been baptised into its communion. This church is now in Bienville Parish, and is the oldest church in that parish, has a very large membership, and a large comfortable house of worship.

Friendship Church was constituted December 26, 1847, in the dwelling house of James Wise, about one mile north of the present residence of Hon. W. F. Moreland, with three male and five female members. Elder R. A. Hargis was the first pastor, and served the Church acceptably.

In 1850, Elder B. F. Fancher was chosen pastor and served the church one year.

Elder S. J. Fuller appears as pastor in March, 1852.



and served till July, 1856, when he resigned the pastorate of the church under the following circumstances: The Concord Baptist Association, of which Friendship Church was a member, had recommended the churches comprising the Association to adopt total abstinence principles or rules requiring their members to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Elder Fuller was an earnest, active advocate of such usage in the church. The subject of total abstinence was introduced and deferred from time to time till July, 1856, when final action was taken. It being evident in advance that the church would be divided, it was agreed to grant letters of dismission to those falling in the minority. Upon the final vote, the count stood fifteen in favor of and eighteen against the adoption of temperance principles. The minority withdrew, and were constituted a church near Haynesville, on Rechobite total abstinence principles, and took as a name New Friendship. Friendship Church, on account of its members becoming scattered, and the loss of their house by fire, and anticipating that a number of its most prominent members would attach themselves to New Friendship, was dissolved by an act of Conference, New Friendship Church in the meantime in consequence of the different interpretations of the rule concerning the use of intoxicating liquors, decided that its members could make such use of spirits in the bounds of propriety as in their judgment their necessities required without appealing to a physician or the church. Soon after the constitution



of New Friendship Church, Elder J. Short accepted the pastorate of the church, and served in that relation till November, 1862, when he resigned and Elder David Wise was numerically chosen pastor at the urgent request of Elder Short. Elder Wise served one year, and was succeeded by Elder L. J. Ford, who served the church till his death, in August, 1864. Elder C. P. Swinney appears next as pastor of Friendship Church. He entered upon that work, January, 1865, and continued till 1867, then after a period of about two years was again chosen pastor, and served the Church about two years. Elder G. G. Wise became pastor of New Friendship Church, January, 1871, and served the church for one year. Elder A. Harris became pastor of New Friendship Church, December 30, 1871, and served without interruption till his death, August 10, 1881, a period of nearly ten years. New Friendship Church at this time has 125 members, who have a good house of worship.

A Baptist Church was constituted in Minden, December 29, 1844, by Elders W. J. Larkin and L. L. Washburn, with the following members: Thos. Lovel. Wm. Drew, Phebe Brisel, and Mrs. E. B. Sligh. Elder G. W. Gaines was the first pastor of the church. Since he resigned, the following elders have served the Church in the order they come: James Buys, A. E. Clemens, H. Lee, J. C. Foster, J. B. Hartwell, N. P. Moore, Wm. Cory Crain, W. A. Baylin, W. E. Paxton. H. Z. Ardis, E. W. Kestly, T. B. Harrell, W. C. Frily. W. H. McGee. The church now has ninety members.

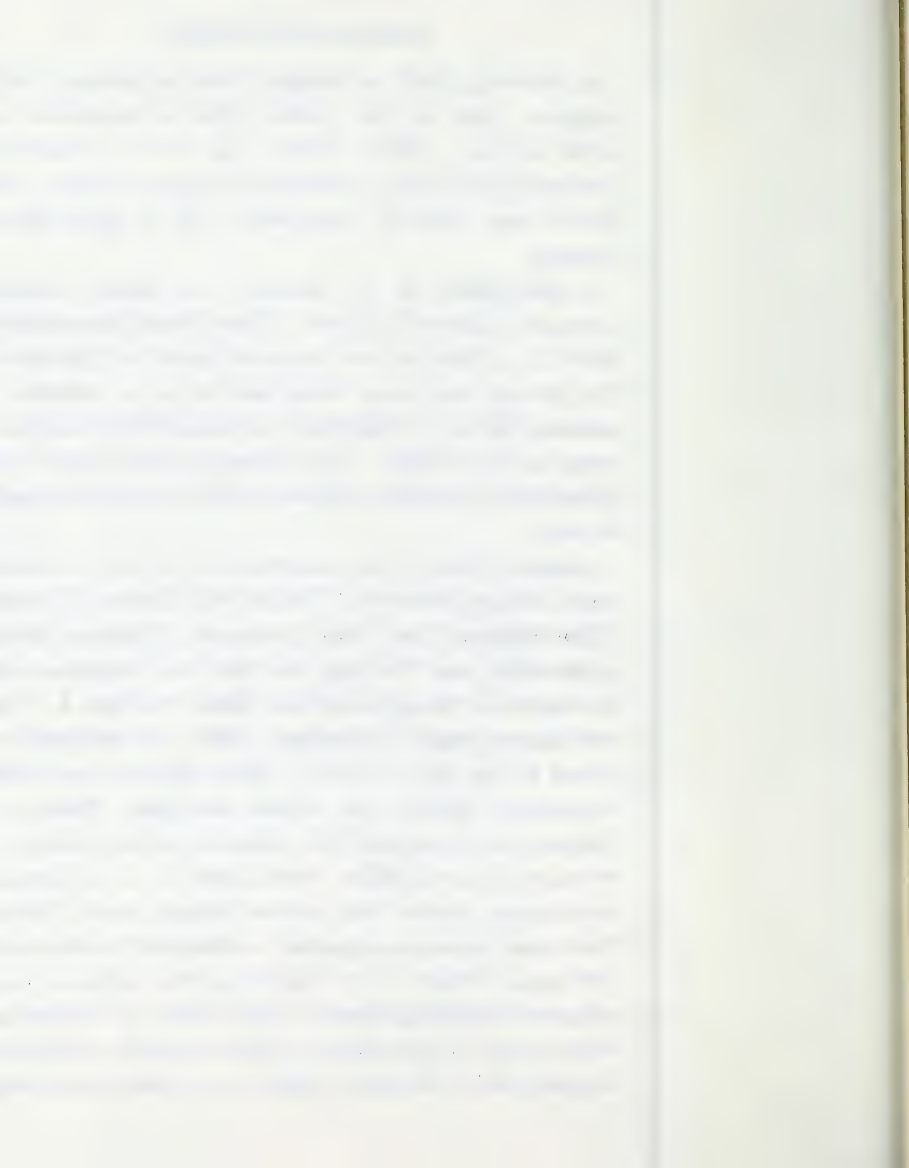


In January, 1842, a church was organized in the Southern part of the parish with 15 members and called Gilgal. This church has had a number of pastors under whose ministry it has done well. The church now has 69 members, and a good church building.

In 1848 Elder R. A. Hargis and Deacon Richard Young constituted Hebron Church near Summerfield. Elder R. A. Hargis was the first pastor of the church. The church has since been served by a number of pastors, Eld. J. W. Melton is at present the acceptable pastor at the church. The church at this time is in a prosperous condition and worships in a good house of its own.

Antioch Church was constituted in 1852, by Elders James Fuller, Seaborn J. Fuller and Reuben Whalous.

The Fortson, Lee, Hay, Johnson, Williams, Brown Applewhite and Sterling families were represented in the church at its organization. Elder Seaborn J. Fuller was chosen pastor December, 1852, who accepted and served to the end of 1853, when Elder James Fuller was chosen pastor and served one year. Elder R. F. Fancher now accepted the pastorate of the church and served two years 1855-6, when Elder A. C. A. Simmons was chosen pastor, and served three years; Elder J. Short now appears as pastor and served to the end of 1864 when Elder W. C. Moreland was chosen pastor and served until the close, of 1870. Elder A. Harris now took charge of the church and served till his death in August 1881. In 1882 Elder D. H. Burt was chosen



pastor and still serves the church. The church has 47 members and a commodious house of worship.

The church was oncemuch larger but other churches of the same faith and order sprang up near by, and a number of the members of Antioch Church went into them as they were nearer their homes.

We are unable to state when the Homer Baptist Church was organized.

In September, 1852, the name of the church was changed from Ebenezer to Homer Church. At that time S. Harris was pastor and J. A. Millican clerk. From this time till October, 1867, the church had regular services when the membership became so small that the church had no pastor in a number of years, and only an occasional sermon was preached. In October, 1871 the church was reorganized and Elder A. Harris chosen pastor and T. S. Sligh clerk. Elder Harris served one year when Elder H. Z. Ardis was chosen pastor and served to the end of 1873. From this time till August, 1877, the church had no pastor, at which time Elder J. W. Melton accepted the pastorate of the church and served two years during which time he was instrumental in reviving the church and received a number of persons into its communion, since that time the church has been in rather a flourishing condition. The church has 50 or 60 members who meet regularly to worship.

On the 29th of August 1852, Elders A. Windham and M. S. McDonald constituted a church on Bayou Dorcheat and called it Union Church. This church has

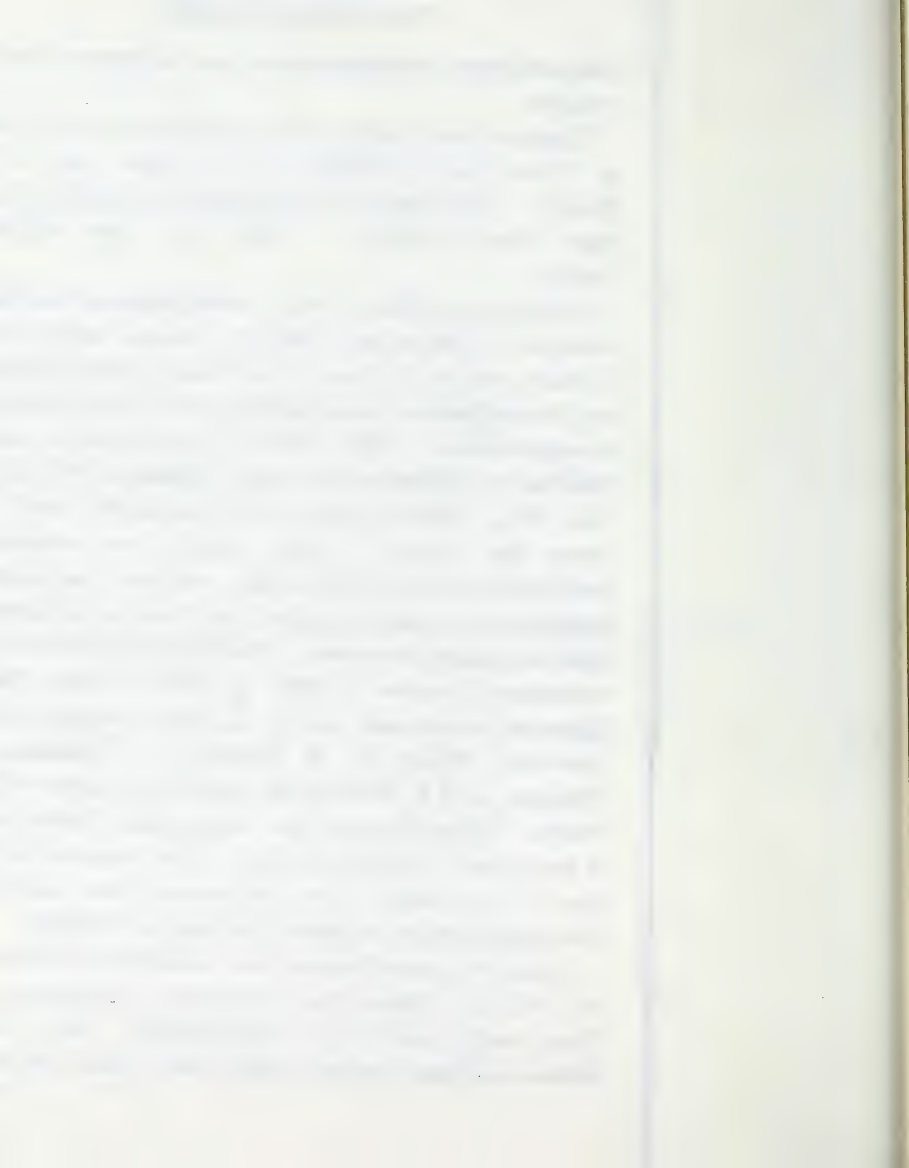


prospered since its organization and at present has 37 members.

Pilgrims Rest Church was constituted June 11, 1853 by Elders R. F. Fancher, S. T. Fuller and J. Q. Burnett. Here some 60 disciples met regularly in a large frame building of their own for religious worship.

Coal Springs Church was constituted on the third Sabbath in December, 1862, by Elders David Wise, J. Short, and S. J. Ford. The Bussy, Obier, Grider, and Perry families were represented in this church at its organization. Elder David Wise served as pastor from the constitution till 1870. Elder J. W. Melton was then chosen pastor, who accepted, and still serves the church. This church has constantly flourished since its organization, and now has seventy members, who meet regularly in their own house to hear the Gospel preached. Holly Springs Church was constituted October 7, 1865, by Elders James Fuller, Ephraim Strickland, and J. A. David, with thirteen members. Elders J. A. David, J. F. Henson, H. Phillipps, and E. Strickland have been pastors of the church. Elder Henson has been again chosen pastor of the church, and is laboring in that capacity at this time. The church now has seventy-five members, who have services regularly in their own house.

Crystal Springs Church was constituted November 10, 1874, by Elders E. Strickland, J. Engram, and Peter Curry, with twenty-two members. Elder J. W. Edison has been pastor of this Church since its organ-



ization, and under his ministry the membership has been increased to sixty.

Summerfield Church was constituted August 29, 1882, by Elders Daniel Burt and J. P. Everette, with thirteen members. Elder Burt was the first pastor. Elder Everette is the pastor this year.

This church has an active membership, and a neat church building. There was an organization in Summerfield just before and during the war, which went down immediately after the war.

There is a large church at Lisbon, and the brethren there have recently erected an elegant house of worship, but we are unable to state when the church was organized, or by whom. There are quite a number of other churches in the parish, of which we are unable to give any account.

There is a considerable number of colored Baptist churches in the parish, some of which have large memberships. At a number of points they have respectable houses of worship, and take great interest in church affairs.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN CLAIBORNE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

By Rev. J. B. Davis.

The present reformation in Clairborne Parish commenced in about 1827. From the days of the Wesleys, the want of a return to the Apostolic teachings and practices, had been deeply felt by the profound



thinkers of the times, and many were the efforts of learned men to throw off the dark pall of ritualism, superstition and sensuality, which had gathered over the church in the dark ages. But these efforts were productive of new sects and creeds only, which were held up to the world for its acceptance. These human made creeds, confessions of faith, and abstracts of principles only led to further divisions and sub-divisions. Seeing this, the eyes of the thoughtful, scanned the religious horizon for a haven of rest. A port which they might enter and be comparatively safe from the storm of sectarian strife and division. Then was heard the immortal words of Chillingworth. "The Bible and the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants." And from the classic hills of Virginia came the not less immortal words of the Campbells; "When the Bible speaks we must speak, but when the Bible is silent, we must be silent" And from Kentucky's grassy plains was heard the voice of Stone. He declared in words of impassioned eloquence, that "the Christian's creed is the Bible; to none but God will we bow." Less lights sprang up everywhere and this doctrine was echoed from the valleys to the hills, and from the hills to the mountain tops, until it reached our own fair land. In about 1827, Lawrence Scarborough, began to preach to the people of Claiborne Parish, the Bible; nothing more or less as the only rule of faith and practice for Christians. This doctrine being to some extent an innovation, on the one preached by the representatives of his



brethren, a rumor which followed him from Mississippi was made the basis for charges against him. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, who after a careful investigation of the case, honorably acquitted him. But some of his brethren were not satisfied, and he (Scarborough) believing his teaching more offensive than his practice, withdrew from the church to avoid further trouble, and a number of his Baptist brethren withdrew with him.

Scarborough being poor and living some distance from the brethren of Black Lake Church, could not be with them often. And after a time most of the brethren who withdrew with him went back to the Baptist Church. This movement not being contemplated things remained for sometime in rather a chaotic state. But Scarborough afterwards moved into Claiborne Parish, and John Murrell (father of Isaac Murrell, deceased, and John Murrell now living seven miles west of Homer), built a church near his own residence, and in this house, about 1840, the congregation met in their own church, and commemorated the death and sufferings of Christ. As disciples or Christians, they discarded all unscriptural names and practices and took as a motto the words of Chillingworth, Campbell and Stone, "the word of God as a lamp to our feet in the pathway of life," offering to meet and unite with any and all on this, the one and the only foundation for the universal union of the children of God. Many ugly and offensive names were applied to us then, as now, but we relied on the prom-



ises of God, and cared for none of those things. A few years after the erection of this church, Scarborough passed to his reward, leaving a band of christians numbering about sixty around this church, and a considerable number in the northeast corner of the parish, near the State line. He was full of days and good works, and has gone to his reward. John Scarborough, son of Lawrence Scarbrough, who had preached some previous to his father's death, now took his father's place, and labored for the disciples in word and doctrine with varied success for several years. At one time this church numbered as high as seventy communicants, and there were other disciples in the Northeast part of the parish, in Union Parish and in Arkansas, where Scarborough lived. The disciples in other parts of the country, hearing of the disciples here, sent evangelists to see and help them. Among those who came was a man named Smith from New Orleans, and Stephenson from Little Rock, Ark. There were no jars between these visiting strangers and the disciples here, but unity, thus demonstrating the important truth that those who take the Bible alone as their guide can meet as brethren everywhere.

About the year 1850, John Scarborough moved to Texas and left the church without a shepherd, and not long after he left the church building was burned accidentally and the congregation went down to almost nothing. Some moved away, others went into other denominations, and others went to the world. About this time a few disciples came from Tennessee to the



parish and settled four or five miles north of Homer. Live members, they soon began to look around for Christians, and finding a remnant of the old congregation of which we have spoken, they learned of Wesley Kelly, of Pike Co., Arkansas, and invited him to preach for them. Kelly accepted and notwithstanding he was uneducated except in the Bible, possessing as he did, an unsullied character and being a forcible speaker, he soon, by his pointed reasoning, harmonious division of the word of God, and powerful exhortations to sinners, built up a respectable congregation at Price's Schoolhouse, near James M. McKinzie's. Kelly was assisted in his work by Crump, one of the elders of the old congregation. Now came the war between the States, Kelly discontinued his visits to the church, Crump was unable to withstand the storm of demoralization which followed and to keep the flock together, and the church went almost to the bad. The war over, Kelly returned and resumed his work, and soon gathered the scattered flock together again, and they at once commenced to increase. After the war, a man whose name was Cooper, assisted Kelly in his work. He was the most learned man in the scriptures that ever visited these brethren; he could repeat entire chapters in any part of the New Testament, from memory.

Shortly after returning from the war, both Kelly and Cooper were called to their reward; Kelly's place was filled by a man whose name was Scarborough. He moved near Union Grove (the name of the church,)



and preached about one year for the disciples very acceptably, when he was engaged by the churches of North Louisiana, and South Arkansas as an evangelist. But he did not enter upon the work, but disappeared, and no one ever knew why or where he went. E. M. Northum was now prevailed upon to visit Union Grove Church once a month. He was well educated and learned in the scriptures, a logical and powerful reasoner and eloquent speaker. Northum carried everything before him. Under his preaching the church grew rapidly, and with the assistance of Washan and others the number of disciples in the parish was increased to probably 250. He did more to build up the cause than any of his predecessors. But unfortunately, just at this time, the church procured the services of John H. Vandyck. He was able in the pulpit, but erratic and soon fell into disgrace, and was silenced from preaching to this church. Washan also did much harm by his imprudence. From this time, it seems that the church commenced declining and continued until the disciples became so cold and lifeless that Northum with his learning and eloquence failed to reach them; the decline continued and Northum quit. R. G. Cranford was next invited to take charge of the church; he did so, and preached for two years without accomplishing any visible good. The church next called W. T. Breedlove, who labored for them three successive years. During the last year of Breedlove's ministry, J. B. Davis, by request, preached



in connection with him to Union Grove Church; but seemingly, their preaching did but little good.

In the fall of 1883, Union Grove and a church in Bossier Parish built by the members of Union Grove met, and agreed to employ a man to preach to the two churches, and to labor the balance of the time as an evangelist. J. B. Davis was offered the place and accepted. In January, 1884, he began his labors, and in February moved to Claiborne Parish, and through his labors, about one hundred have been added to the different churches. One new congregation, with about seventy members, was organized in Union Parish, and members have been added in Bossier, Union and Claiborne Parishes. Mr. Davis is still laboring for the brethren, and occupies nearly the same field he did last year. Last fall at the annual meeting of Union Grove Church, the church seemed to take on new life; two more elders were appointed and one deacon, and the work of building up and cleansing began immediately. There were accessions to the church, backsliders reclaimed, and the faithful were made to rejoin. At present the church is at peace and doing well, better than for years.

At Holly Springs in this parish, there are about fifteen disciples who meet occasionally, and the prospect is good for a church there soon. I suppose there are about 150 Disciples of Christ or Christians, in Claiborne Parish. For the information of many inquirers who do not know the distinctive plea of the disciples, I will state that they advocate the union of the chil-



dren of God on the Bible and the Bible alone. Taking and wearing no name save that given the disciples of Christ, and recognized by the Holy Spirit. They advocate a living heart, faith in all the great truths of the scriptures and full obedience to all the commands, placing the commands all on an equality; with no non essentials; full trust in the promises to those who believe and obey. No promise to those who reject, neglect or disobey, classing these with the unbeliever. Allowing the largest liberty in matters of opinion, strictly avoiding all innovations on the apostolic teaching and practice. And this is the people falsely, maliciously called Campbellites.

HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLAIBORNE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

As early as 1838, Rev. A. R. Banks, a Presbyterian minister of Spring Hill, Ark., preached an occasional sermon in Claiborne Parish in passing through it. Once in 1838 at Old Overton, when the court house was there. Once in 1839 in Allen's settlement, and once at Athens' when it was the parish site. In 1839 or 1840 Rev. A. R. Banks and John Boggs conducted a series of meetings in Minden, which resulted in the conversion of some 12 or 15 persons, among whom were some of the leading citizens of the town and parish. But we believe Messrs. Banks and Boggs organized no Church in Minden at this time. Rev. Boggs was a native of Savannah, Ga. He taught and



preached in Minden a year or two, when his health failed, and he moved to South Carolina or Virginia. He died in Abbeville district, South Carolina, we believe, in 1843 or 1844. In August, 1851, Rev. J. Franklin Ford, of Shreveport, at the request of Messrs. John Davidson (father of Rev. J. T. Davidson), and Felix Simonton, came out to Athens, a distance of forty odd miles, and organized a Presbyterian Church, perhaps the first one ever organized in Claiborne Parish. The church was organized about two miles south of Athens in a log school house, and called Midway. The following families were represented in this church at its organization: Davidson, Simonton, Brownfield, Calhoun, and perhaps a few others. The organization was soon moved to Athens.

About this date Rev. B. F. Peters, a Presbyterian minister, lived in Homer, and on Flat Lick, and taught school and preached, but the writer regrets that he is unable to give an account of his work or tell from where he came or where he went. In the fall of 1852, Rev. J. T. Davidson, a Presbyterian minister, moved to Homer from Georgia, and located. At this time there was but one Presbyterian in the community outside his own family. With this small beginning he began his labors as an Evangelist, supporting himself and family by teaching school. At that time this was a frontier country, the roads were rugged and many of the streams unbridged, and this pioneer, in the cause of Presbyterianism in Louisiana, had to labor under many and great difficulties, but he overcame them.



He organized churches in Homer, and at a number of other points.

On the 12th of February, 1854, Rev. John E. Davidson (brother of J. T. Davidson), was installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Minden, Rev. J. Franklin Ford preaching the sermon, and Rev. S. P. Helme giving the charge to the pastor and people. The writer is unable to state when and by whom the Minden church was organized. John E. Davidson preached to the Minden church about eight months, when his health failed, and he came out to his father's near Athens, where, after a lingering, painful illness of some months, he died. Red River Presbytery at its third meeting held in Homer, March 22, 1855, adopted the following report of his death: "That we have heard with unfeigned grief of the death of our late brother, the Rev. John E. Davidson, and that while we humbly bow to this manifestation of the will of our Heavenly Father, we lament his loss to us in our social and religious intercourse, and to our Church in that talent and spirit for usefulness which he possessed, and we sincerely tender our sympathy to his afflicted relatives, and especially to his aged father and mother. Rev. John E. Davidson was born in Fairfield District, S. C., January 8, 1827. At an early age his parents moved to Troup County, Georgia, where he grew up. He resided for a while in Mississippi. Blessed with pious parents, and having received faithful training, he early gave his heart to God and resolved to devote himself to the ministry. Before going to the Princeton Sem-



inary, where he was graduated in 1853, he pursued a course of education, and was for some years usefully employed in teaching.

In 1853, soon after leaving the Seminary he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Tombeckbee, and at the close of the same year he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same Presbytery. He was soon after sent by the Synod of Mississippi to form the Presbytery of Red River. At the organization of the first meeting of this Presbytery he was installed Pastor of the Minden Church, in which relation he labored with great acceptance, and with much promise of usefulness until God, in the inscrutable dispensation of his Providence, removed him from the sphere of his earthly labors to his reward in his heavenly kingdom. The services of Brother Davidson in the ministry were short, but marked by decided results, and in his death the church over which he was placed has lost an acceptable and efficient preacher and a faithful pastor.

In 1856, Rev. J. Franklin Ford accepted the presidency of the Minden Female College. Here, for eight years, he presided over Minden College with the finest success, and at the same time preached in Minden, and at all other points where opportunity offered. Nor was his preaching in vain; during his stay in Minden he did much to keep together and build up the few scattering Presbyterians then living in this western country, and was instrumental in leading sinners into the way of life. Rev. A. R. Banks furnishes the follow-

ing sketch of his useful and eventful life. J. Franklin Ford was a native of Kentucky, where he married and soon after moved to Rapides Parish, La. Here he engaged in planting and preaching as he had opportunity. Several years were spent here when he moved to Shreveport, La., where he supplied the Presbyterian Church regularly for some years. In 1856 he moved to Minden, where he taught and preached till 1864, when he returned to Shreveport, where he opened an academy for young ladies, and taught until suddenly called by death to his reward. Attacked with heart disease he fell upon the side-walk, and was carried by loving hands to his home where, in the bosom of his family, he soon died. Rev. J. Franklin Ford was a good man and a fine preacher. He was well versed in ecclesiastical matters, and wrote his sermons carefully, which were thoughtful, orthodox and often eloquent. He left an interesting family, consisting of a wife and three daughters; he had no sons. In 1866 Rev. J. E. Bright, D. D., accepted the presidency of the Minden Female College. Here, for eight years, he instructed the young ladies of this institution, and supplied the Presbyterian Church in Minden at the same time. And he did not confine his preaching to Minden, but went out into the country, and, in the log school houses, and under the bush arbors, preached the Gospel in a way so simple and persuasive that many were brought to Christ. * In June, 1871, Dr. Bright resigned the presidency of Minden College and moved to Ten-

nessee. Dr. Bright gone, there was no Presbyterian minister in Claiborne Parish for some years, except Rev. J. T. Davidson, who some years before had located permanently near Homer. During these years he supplied all the different churches in the parish and some in adjoining parishes. He preached in Homer, Minden, Athens, State Line and other points. At some of these points he preached monthly, at others only occasionally as his time would permit. Considering the small number of Presbyterian families in the country, and that none of the churches were able to worship in houses of their own, Rev. Davidson succeeded well in building up the denomination. The Presbyterians of Homer are indebted to the kindness of their Methodist brethren for a house of worship until 1872, at which time, chiefly through the agency of Rev. J. T. Davidson, their own elegant church was erected. In 1876, Rev. McInnis, D. D., of Oxford, Mississippi, labored in Red River Presbytery, of which Claiborne Parish forms a part, as an evangelist. An intensely earnest preacher and a good revivalist, his efforts here were productive of good. After an arduous year's work here he returned to Oxford, Mississippi, where he lived but a few years and died.

In 1877 Dr. Bright returned to Louisiana, and labored effectually in Red River Presbytery one year as an evangelist, after which he returned to Jackson, Tennessee, where he died the next summer of yellow fever. A native of Indiana, J. E. Bright was graduated

at Woodward College, Cincinnati, Ohio, under that distinguished educator, Dr. McGuffey, author of the school readers. He married a daughter of Dr. Slack, of Cincinnati, a Presbyterian minister and a noted professor of chemistry. Of his life before coming to Minden, the writer knows comparatively nothing. A profound scholar, Dr. Bright was a fine instructor and an able minister of the Gospel as well. While an evangelist the writer became more intimately acquainted with him, and has since been an ardent admirer of his character. To the evangelistic work he seemed wonderfully adapted, and his efforts were attended with marked results. With all his learning he was an humble devout minister, and presented the truth in a manner so simple, so free from anything like effort at display, and so persuasive that none were offended, but many induced to embrace the truth. He did much to build up the weak churches of the denomination, and organized a number of churches. But preaching was not his only work. Many were the invalids he visited, and numerous the scattered Presbyterians, denied by their remoteness of residence the privilege of worshipping with the people of God, whom he found and comforted by his peculiarly gentle and persuasive words.

Since the death of Dr. Bright, Red River Presbytery has had no evangelist.

Rev. J. T. Davidson died October 21, 1881, of congestion of the brain, in his home, near Homer, La. Rev. Davidson was the only Presbyterian minister who

ever located permanently in Claiborne Parish, and during the last ten years of his life, the only one in the parish. From the time he came to Homer, in 1852, till the close of his life, this excellent divine labored in the ministry with untiring energy and devotion. In the last years of his long and eminently useful life after all his comrades had fallen, he labored with increased earnestness and success. He was not a man who preached only, but one of those who ever sought opportunity of doing good in the walks of private life. He visited the sick and afflicted, and with words that were deeds, comforted and sustained them. He exemplified the excellence and beauty of the religion he preached in his daily life. So uniform and consistent was his course, that he enjoyed the confidence and reverential admiration of all who knew him, without exception. Who can estimate the influence of such a life? We shall not attempt to write the history of the good work he did in North Louisiana. He was always an able worker in the cause of education, and a pioneer in every enterprise calculated to benefit his people. His name forms a part of the history of the parish and of the State of Louisiana. His mission in life seems to have been to do good, and to demonstrate how beautiful human life could be made.

The Rev. Cyrus Harrington pays him the following just and beautiful tribute :

“Rev. Joseph T. Davidson was born of pious parentage in Fairfield District, S. C., April 4, 1818; made a profession of faith in 1834; was married January 7,

1841; was licensed to preach in 1845; was ordained at the first session of the Presbytery of Red River in 1854; was installed pastor of the Homer Church in 1874; and died of congestion of the brain at his residence near Homer, October 21, 1881.

We are therefore, called to erect another tablet to the memory of our dead.

The Presbytery of Red River was organized in Minden, La., February 10, 1854, and on that day Bro. Davidson presented a letter of dismission as licentiate from Flint River Presbytery; and having been received, at his own request, he was ordained evangelist. He had settled near the town of Homer, in the Parish of Claiborne. When he arrived there, there was but one Presbyterian outside of his own family in the community, a Mrs. Smith, his own sister.

With this small beginning he commenced his work as evangelist, supporting himself and family by school teaching and farm work, and not receiving a dollar from the church until years after. His field was a laborious one. Roads were bad, and in many cases without bridges. The churches were far apart, and the members of the churches scattering; but having a mind for the work, and a strong physical constitution, he promptly met most of his appointments, even though he had to ride through rain and snow, and go around or swim swollen streams. Several churches were organized by him. Some of these have grown, while others, owing to the migratory state of society, have ceased to exist.

Bro. Davidson passed through many revivals, of which he was one of the chief instruments, under Providence, in bringing them to a successful issue. Alabama, Vienna, Homer, and Rocky Mt. Churches, especially, will long remember him in such meetings. The writer was present with him at Rocky Mt. He preached twice a day for two weeks, and when the meeting was at its height, this prudent man advised the cessation of the services, stating as his reason for it that the good work would go on by thus acting, whereas, to push it too far would leave the church in a dead state. The result proved the wisdom of the plan, for the good work went on from Sabbath to Sabbath, until forty-three converts were added to the church, of whom forty have remained true to their covenant vows. This was in 1860. No man can ever write out a history of the good work which he has done for North Louisiana. He was ever among the foremost of those who promoted education, temperance, morality, and religion. He ever preached in the highways and hedges, compelling them to come into some one of God's churches. Many is the time he labored with our brethren of other denominations, and many of his greatest admirers and warmest friends are members of sister churches. But the church at Homer is his greatest monument in church erection. Here he commenced with nothing, and in process of time has erected a large village church house, with one of the largest audiences and most intelligent and godly memberships belonging to our Presbytery.

But it was as a *Presbyter* that Bro. Davidson most excelled. He might rightly be called our "Committee of Ways and Means." No member of *Presbytery* was listened to with greater deference, and his management of our *Presbyterial* treasury was most successful.

As a preacher he stood very high with the people. "The common people heard him gladly." As a companion, there was none more social, kind, sincere, and friendly. He in the matter of friendships was our David with many *Jonathans*.

As a Christian, he was devotedly, intelligently, and consistently pious. He emphatically enjoyed the service of his Master. And as he grew older in years he made more rapid growth in grace. He died with the harness on.

Faithful servant of God, warm-hearted, Christian brother, true and devoted friend, the Master "has come and called for thee." A few more days and we will meet thee again. Thou hast a little the advantage of us. But we serve the same Lord. Brother Davidson leaves a devoted wife and two sons and daughters, and many grandchildren and friends, to whom, one and all, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

It ought not, in this connection, to be forgotten, that the Rev. J. T. Davidson was a self-made man. He studied under Dr. Cunningham, in Georgia, but chiefly prepared himself for the ministry after he had a family. Such a life shows to the church what our young men can do when the root of the matter is in them."

In 1883, Rev. D. McNeal Turner, D. D., lived in Homer and supplied the churches in the parish and some in the adjoining parishes. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and an eloquent preacher. He now lives, we believe in Texas. There is no Presbyterian clergyman in the parish just at this time.

Rev. McLees, of Vienna, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, preaches monthly in Homer, the only church in the parish that now has Presbyterian preaching. Since Claiborne has been so cut down there are only three churches in the parish, Homer, Athens and State Line, and with the exception of Homer these have small memberships.

HISTORY OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN CLAIBORNE PARISH.

By Rev. G. N. Clampitt.

In 1849 I passed through Claiborne Parish and preached in Minden and Haynesville. In 1852 a small colony of Cumberland Presbyterians settled in Southeast Claiborne, amongst whom was Messrs. Givins, the mother of E. A. and A. J. H. Givins.

About the same time the Alexanders and Kirkpatrick came out from West Tennessee and settled north of Homer. With them was H. B. McMahon, a licensed preacher. Shortly after Rev. Joslin Jones, also a licensed preacher from Mississippi, located in the Parish. About this time Revs. A. Forhenberry and W. Harton came from Arkansas and held a meeting of

great interest in the residence of Samuel Kirkpatrick. Soon after this meeting a church was organized in Homer and another at Shongaloo. But the one in Homer was soon dissolved, and a church known as Mount Pleasant was organized west of R. H. Cleveland's farm. We had a large membership there, a good house and ten acres of land, not recorded at the close of the war. The house was burned and we lost all.

A short time after the Mt. Pleasant organization a small church was organized eleven miles east of Homer, near the Alexander steam mill, and called Pleasant Grove. Soon after this H. B. McMahon and Joslin Jones were ordained to the whole work of the ministry.

In 1852 I commenced preaching regularly in Claiborne Parish. In 1855 Rev. W. B. Scott, of Minden, who had been licensed to preach by the M. E. Church South, joined our church. At that time the Presbytery, of which Claiborne formed a part, was known as Ouachita Presbytery, and included North Louisiana and South Arkansas; and Scott was ordained at Hillboro, Ark.

In 1857 I moved to Arcadia, Bienville Parish, but continued to do all my ministerial work in Claiborne. In August, 1858, I organized Salem Church, near the spot where Russelville once stood. Rev. H. B. McMahon was with me, and helped to do the preaching. At this time and place there was a great out-pouring

of the Holy Spirit, and the meeting resulted in great and lasting good.

At one time we had a small church in Minden, but some of its members were scattered by the late war, and others moved away soon after, and the church went down. During those years of civil strife Rev. H. B. McMahon was the only minister left at home to preach to our churches in Claiborne. The Rev. Nevins, an able divine of our church, and a State officer of the State of Missouri, came to this parish in order to keep safely State papers that were in his charge, and did much good work for our church until quiet was restored. He then returned to Missouri, and died soon thereafter. Rev. R. M. Searey, of Kentucky, came also to this parish in those evil days, and taught the Homer Male College School in 1864, and in 1865; settled near Salem, where he lived and labored for five years; he then moved to the southern part of the State, where he died. In 1864 S. S. Smart was licensed to preach, and was the first man ever made a preacher by our denomination on the soil of Claiborne. Presbytery met several times in Claiborne Parish. At one of its sittings here in 1866, E. W. Tharr, H. B. Hollinsworth and S. S. Smart were ordained to the whole work of the ministry. •

About this time by order of the General Assembly of our church we were formed into a new Presbytery embracing all the territory lying south of the Arkansas line and between Red and Ouachita Rivers to their

junction, to be known as Louisiana Presbytery, which name it still bears.

Oct. 1870, Presbytery met at Salem and by much work and great patience we warmed up and started again our beloved church which had been neglected, scattered, and wounded during all those years of discord. At this sitting F. E. Leach of Arkansas was ordained.

Quachita Synod met for the first time in Louisiana October 1877 at Salem church. At this time Louisiana Presbytery had sixteen congregations, six of which were in Claiborne. In 1878 the denomination in this parish called Rev. F. E. Leach to take charge of her churches, which was approved by Presbytery and accepted by Rev. Leach and he was domiciled at Haynesville.

1880, Rev. G. R. Stewart also of Arkansas came to this parish and was domiciled at Salem, and the next year Salem built a parsonage and Rev. Stewart moved into it where he stayed till 1884, when both F. E. Leach and G. R. Stewart, on account of bad health, withdrew from the Presbytery and went to other fields of labor. They both did earnest and faithful work for the church while with us.

Quachita Synod met a second time in Claiborne at Haynesvilles A. D. 1880.

Revs. Fortenberry, McMahon, Scott, Searcy and Smart have all gone to their reward. The denomination has now but one minister in the parish, viz. F. A.

Clampitt, the writer's son, who lives at Salem in the parsonage. We still have six church houses in this parish worth about \$4,000 dollars, and 265 membership. The following is added by the compiler:

Too much cannot be said in praise of the above writer who still lives in Arcadia, La. He has been in Christ the founder and nourisher of his church in this parish.

MOUNT LEBANON UNIVERSITY.

In 1853 the Baptists of Louisiana founded a University at Mt. Lebanon. Considering the wealth, culture and morality of the people of the town and surrounding country, together with the natural beauty and exceptional healthfulness of the place, the location was well chosen. Commodious, substantial buildings were erected, a good library and excellent apparatus secured, and the school at once received a liberal patronage, and soon became celebrated throughout the land. Here, in the happy prosperous days before the war, many young gentlemen and ladies sought learning, and under the administration of such accomplished scholars as W. E. Paxton, Jesse Hartwell, and others of equal ability, this institution sent forth from its classic wall many of the best scholars now living in North Louisiana. Exercises were continued until 1863, when the college became a Confederate Hospital. After the war an effort was made to reorganize the school, but owing to the bad financial condition of the country the effort failed of success.

In 1882 the people of Mt. Lebanon and surrounding country having united in an effort to have a school in their midst, repaired the buildings and elected Rev. W. P. Carter as Principal of Mt. Lebanon High School. The school was opened September 11, 1882, and 115 students were matriculated during the first session. This so far surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine that the institution was at once chartered in order to meet the demands for higher education. Rev. W. M. Reese, a gentleman of ability and culture, now has charge of the college, which is in a very flourishing condition, and under his administration promises to gain its former celebrity.

Without further mention of the ministers, who have labored to build up the denomination in the parish, this sketch would be incomplete. Arthur McFarland was born in Tennessee in 1816, where he married and soon after moved to Louisiana, where he subsequently lived. He was one of the very first to preach the Gospel in Claiborne Parish, and assisted in the organization of the first churches ever constituted in this part of the State. Athens, Walnut Creek, and Black Lake Churches will long remember this good man. After a useful life he died at Athens, La., in 1878 at a very advanced age. He left a number of sons and daughters, and one of his sons James B. has long been a useful and exemplary minister of the Gospel.

Elder R. A. Hargis was a man of more than ordinary ability, of genial disposition, and popular manners,

and for a number of years was an acceptable and useful minister, and honored with the confidence and esteem of the denomination. In the later years of his life he engaged in farming and merchandising, and preached only an occasional sermon. He died a few years ago at Athens, La., after an eventful life.

Elder R. F. Fancher was from the East, perhaps born in Georgia, and came to Louisiana about 1846 or 1847; he was a minister of ability, of a logical turn of mind, systematic in the arrangement of his sermons, of fixed purpose, pious and orderly in walk, eminently useful in ministerial work, and an intelligent, public spirited citizen. His private life was without reproach.

Elder John L. Mayes we believe was born in Georgia and brought up in Alabama, and was licensed to preach in 1847 or 1848, and ordained soon afterward. He was a man of ordinary ability, but of few early literary advantages; he was a man of unquestioned piety, and great zeal; he had fine gifts for exhortation, and great tact, and was eminently useful in protracted meetings; of cheerful and happy temperament, he had hosts of friends who cherish his memory with a sincere and sacred regard. He died in Lincoln Parish, La., about the year 1867 or 1868 honored for his many virtues.

Elder S. J. Fuller was brought up in Alabama, and was licensed to preach in 1846 or 1847, and ordained soon after. Elder Fuller was a minister of respectable talent, of great moral and physical courage, and tireless energy. His convictions were strong and

abiding, and he brought to their support all the energy of his ardent nature. He had very few early advantages, but such was his energy that he surmounted difficulties that would have unnerved more timid men. Elder Fuller when tried by the standard of the schools was not an able preacher, but being a born leader he was eminently successful as a pastor. He also had fine gifts that made him useful in revival meetings. He was much distinguished as a temperance lecturer, and for many years had scarcely a rival in all the land. He had wit and sarcasm pointed with anecdote, and apt illustration, that made him a formidable antagonist; as a church member he was humble and devout, as a citizen he was public spirited and alive to every interest that concerns the well-being of his fellow-men. He moved to the vicinity of Darndanelle, Ark., about 1867, where he died in 1882, respected of all who knew him, for his true manhood, his tireless devotion to principle, and for his great usefulness as a minister, neighbor, and citizen.

Elder J. Short was born in Kentucky and came with his parents to Louisiana when some 15 years of age. He joined Friendship (the old church,) November 14, 1850, when about 20 years old, and was ordained to preach December, 1855. Elder Short possessed a high order of talent and at once took rank among the prominent members of the denomination. In consequence of his youthful appearance and rare gifts he was often styled a "born preacher." He was naturally modest

and diffident and of a somewhat peculiar temperament; his extraordinary gifts gave him a commanding prominence. He had poor literary advantages; yet he early stored his mind with a large fund of useful knowledge. He was a minister of great usefulness and his services were in constant demand. Of a somewhat roving spirit he frequently changed his place of residence, he led an eventful life, moved two or three times to Texas, and finally died in that State while yet young, in the midst of great usefulness, lamented by a large circle of friends and ardent admirers.

Elders L. J. Ford and D. Wise were good men and useful members. The latter was long identified with Coal Springs Church and his memory is still cherished with ardent affection in all that region.

Elder C. P. Swinny was a minister of more than ordinary ability capable of protracted, patient and deep investigation, and when his powers of investigation had long been exercised on a field there was but little left for others to glean. Elder Swinny was a man of strong convictions and was faithful and fearless in their expression. His services were widely sought and highly valued by a large circle of intelligent Christian people. He moved to Arkansas near Hope in 1872-3 where he died 1880-1, honored of all who knew him.

Elder G. G. Wise became pastor at New Friendship Church, January, 1871, and served the church for one year. He then lived and still lives in Arkansas, and has become a distinguished minister of the Gospel,

and his services are widely sought by the more intelligent and enterprising churches.

Elder A. Harris had gifts of a very high order. He had large natural endowments. His literary advantages were excellent and well improved. He possessed powers of mind rarely combined in the same individual. He was eloquent as a speaker, logical and methodical in the arrangement and delivery of his sermons. His judgment and understanding were remarkably accurate. He was conservative in his feelings and expressions, tender and courteous in all his relations. Elder Harris was an honored and eminently useful minister of the Gospel, and had the confidence, esteem, and considerate regard of his brethren of all denominations. His memory will long be cherished by a large circle of the wise and good of every name and class. He was well and widely known for his varied and useful attainments. He died August 10, 1871, after an eminently useful life.

Elder W. C. Moreland was well and widely known as an able minister, logical and profound. He was a man of strong convictions, with disposition and nerve to follow them to their legitimate conclusions. As a speaker he ranked high. He was earnest and forcible. His language and illustrations were singularly appropriate. He was an honored and useful minister, and served with much acceptance as pastor of several of the more prominent Baptist churches for a number of years. But failing health gradually narrowed his field of labor till November 9, 1883, when he fell a victim to general

debility, greatly lamented by a large circle of brethren and friends. Elder Moreland was a native of Georgia. He joined the M. E. Church, South, and was put upon itinerant work in early manhood, and labored with great acceptance and usefulness for a number of years. He moved to Louisiana about 1857 or 1858. A few years afterward, in consequence of a change of views on the subject of baptism and kindred matters, he applied to Antioch Church in Claiborne Parish for admission, and was subsequently baptized into the fellowship of that church by Elder A. C. A. Simmons, and soon afterward ordained in 1863, and entered actively into his chosen work, commanding the respect of all and the admiration of many, by his marked ability and unquestioned sincerity, deep piety and great usefulness.

From the minutes of the Baptist Convention held in Shreveport, July, 1885: Rev. William Peterson Carter, A. M., was born in Pontatac County, Mississippi, on the 12th of October, 1852, and died at his home in Mt. Lebanon, Bienville Parish, La., on the 18th of June, 1885. He was a graduate of Mississippi College, and also of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was elected pastor of Mt. Lebanon, Athens, and Gilgal churches, and also elected President of Mt. Lebanon College in 1882, which position he filled with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the Board of Trustees who elected him to preside over this venerable Baptist College.

He was a fine scholar, sound theologian, a success-

ful preacher and a model pastor. He combined in an eminent degree every essential element of success. Thus has fallen a noble man in the midst of usefulness and in the prime of life. Where he lived and labored the name of W. P. Carter will be revered and his memory embalmed in the affections of his brethren and sisters. He leaves a wife and two small children to mourn his loss.

Another good man gone, the many friends and associates of long ago of Elder H. Z. Ardis will be pained to hear of his death. But he died with his armor on and as a shock of wheat ripe for the garner. The health of Brother Ardis had been failing for several months so that he could not preach, but he took an agency for the sale of bibles and other good books and was some twenty miles from home at the time of death.

On Tuesday evening last just before night he arrived at the house of Elder J. A. Walker apparently in his accustomed health. He spent the night, had a slight attack of difficulty in breathing during the night but got up as well as usual next morning. After breakfast he started to Mt. Lebanon about ten miles distant. The brother with whom he had spent the night thought best to go with him. They had gone about a mile when he complained and had to get down and rest. He insisted on going on but had not gone far before he found he could not make the trip and with difficulty got back to the house from which he started. He was assisted off of his horse and placed

on a mattress in the gallery at the house and died in five minutes. He was able to speak a moment before he died giving evidence of consciousness and a willingness to go. He died with a sweet smile on his countenance which could still be seen when the writer reached there over an hour after his death. Brother Ardis was born on Beach Island, S. C., August 8, 1811; was married to Anna W. Biggs December 25, 1832. This wife died in Florida, October 16, 1870. Four daughters, two married and two single, the issue of this marriage still survive. Brother Ardis moved to Louisiana in October, 1871, and on the first of May following married sister Elizabeth Cooksey, who is still living to mourn her great loss. He was raised by Presbyterian parents and united with that church at an early age. Early in the year 1834, he united with the Baptist Church and in the year 1835 at the call of Union Barnwell District, S. C., he was ordained by a Presbytery consisting of Elders Juerson Brooks, John Broome and Samuel Gibson. His health failing in Georgia he moved to Florida and served the Madison Church about twenty-five years as pastor. He has at different times served some seven churches in Louisiana as pastor, and never was a minister more beloved by his brethern or more revered by the community at large. He was not a great, but a good, evangelical gospel preacher. As a religious conversationalist I have rarely seen him equaled, never surpassed. He loved the Savior he served with all the ardor of his large heart. I would commend the bereaved widow and

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his Godly daughters to the sympathy and prayers of his brethern who knew and loved him.

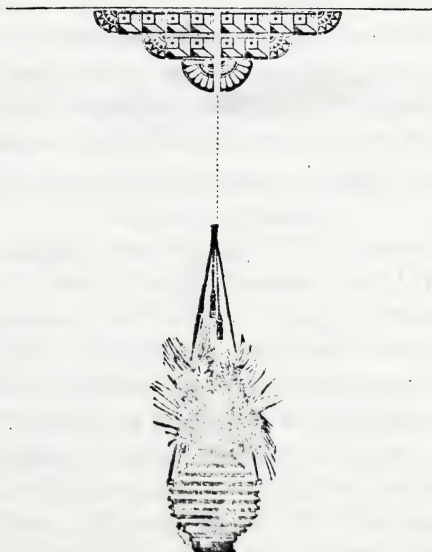
F. COURTNEY.

Mt. Lebanon, La., July 23, 1884.

That most estimable lady and devout Christian, Mrs. Elizabeth Ardis, died in Texas in 1884, after a long and eminently useful life. Mrs. Ardis spent most of her life in Claiborne Parish La., where she enjoyed the friendship and reverential admiration of all who knew her without exception.

Rev. W. E. Paxton, D. D., was born in Little Rock, Ark., on the 23rd of June, 1825, and died June 9th, 1883. He graduated at Georgetown College, Ky., in 1853, and soon after moved to Louisiana. He taught school in Mt. Lebanon a year or two, when he began the practice of law and continued until about the close of the the war. He entered the army in the early part of the war. In 1864, he was ordained to preach, and in 1866, he began his pastorate in Minden, preaching also to the Brier Point and Gilgal Churches. He resigned his pastorate to accept the presidency of Shreveport University, where he remained until 1877. While teaching in Shreveport, he preached every Sabbath to the Summer Grove Church. He passed through that terrible yellow fever there in 1873; faithfully waited on the sick and dying until stricken down himself. As soon as he recovered sufficiently, he resumed waiting on others and continued till the epidemic was over. Rev. Paxton moved to Memphis in 1877, and during the same year accepted the presidency of the Centen-

ial Institute, Warren, Ark. Here he taught five years; preaching at the same time to three churches. Health failing, he gave up teaching, and in 1883, he accepted the pastorate of the Fort Smith Church, Ark., where he labored with fine results for five months, when he was stricken down in the midst of a series of meetings; thus ended the life of a devoted husband, loving and kind father, and a faithful laborer for our Lord Jesus Christ.





CHAPTER XIII.

WAR RECORD.

The following lists and sketches were furnished us by members of the companies, and in almost every instance were wholly from memory. There are doubtless errors and omissions; but, if so, they were not to be avoided. Indeed, it is a matter of surprise that these old soldiers, after the lapse of so many years, and without the aid of their old army rolls or other memoranda, should now be able to recall so many of the names of their comrades, and to recite with such minuteness so many circumstances connected with their history and the history of their companies.

Many men living on or near the line enlisted in companies of adjoining parishes. Of these it has been impossible to obtain lists, except in one instance.

HISTORY OF THE "CLAIBORNE GUARDS," FURNISHED
BY W. C. COOKSEY.

This company was organized in Homer, in April, 1861, with John Young, Captain, and J. B. Parham, J. M. Andrews, and John S. Young, Lieutenants. The company left immediately for New Orleans, where it went into the Second Louisiana Regiment of Infantry. Captain Young was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, which necessitated a new election of officers for the company, resulting in the choice of J. M. Andrews, Captain, and J. B. Parham, John S. Young, and W. C. Leslie, Lieutenants. The regiment

remained about a week in New Orleans, drilling, when we were ordered to Richmond, where we again spent a short time in drilling. Next, we were ordered to Yorktown, where we passed a month in fortifying the place. From Yorktown we went to Williamsburg, where we remained two months, drilling and throwing up breastworks. Then we moved about ten miles, to the James River, where we spent two months more in drilling; after which we went into winter quarters about twenty miles east of Yorktown.

Early in the spring of 1862, we left winter quarters for Dams Nos. 1 and 2, in the Peninsula, where we spent a short time without any occurrence worthy of mention, except a little engagement, which, in the light of subsequent experience, we have always regarded as a very small affair. During our stay on the Peninsula, the year for which we enlisted expired, and a reorganization took place, resulting in the election of the following company officers: Captain, A. S. Blithe; Lieutenants, Cager, Martin, W. J. Reams, and J. L. Cotton; Sergeant, Charley Cheatham.

From the Peninsula we were ordered to Richmond, and reached there in time to participate in the seven days fight around that city, and to realize something of the magnitude of the war in which we had enlisted. After the fight around Richmond, we were next engaged in the battle of Cedar Run, and soon afterward in the second battle of Manassas. The second battle of Manassas over, we left with Gen. Lee, for Maryland, and were ordered with Gen. Jackson, to Harper's

Ferry, which we assisted in capturing. From Harper's Ferry we went immediately to Sharpsburg, reaching it in time to take part in the engagement of that place. From Sharpsburg we were ordered to Fredericksburg where, after a hard fight, we went into winter quarters. In the spring of 1863, we moved out of winter quarters in the direction of Chancellorsville, and on the 2d of May, near sunset, were placed in position at Wilderness Church. Here we were engaged in a most terrific fight, and here occurred the saddest event of the war; the loss of Stonewall Jackson. At a halt in the charge, and while it was growing dark, Jackson with a number of his own staff and a part of Gen. A. P. Hill's, rode forward to reconnoitre, and proceeded beyond the first line of skirmishers. While galloping back through the thick foliage to rejoin his men, and to order a fresh charge, he was mistaken by a North Carolina regiment for the enemy, and fired upon. He fell, struck by three balls, two through his left arm and one through the palm of his right hand. He was quickly borne from the field, placed in an ambulance, and driven to Wilderness Run. Here in a small farm-house, about four miles from the scene of his last gallant charge, died the great commander, on Sunday, the 8th, day of his suffering. The death of this grand soldier caused grief and mourning throughout the army, and throughout the Confederacy. His place could never be filled. And to think that the fatal shot should come from his own friends!



Gen. Stewart took Jackson's place, and the fighting continued several days on the lines of the Rapahannock. The Claiborne Guards, were in three distinct engagements on this occasion, that of the Wilderness, that usually known as the battle of Chancellorsville, and that of Salem Church, which ended on the night of the 4th of May.

After the affair at Chancellorsville the remainder of the month of May was consumed in making preparations for a campaign into Pennsylvania, on whose wheat fields, President Davis had declared on the floor of the United States Senate, the contest should be carried. Arrangements being complete, we left about the first of June with General Lee for Pennsylvania. We had no general engagement until we reached Gettysburg. Here, perhaps, we were engaged in the severest battle of the war. From Gettysburg we returned to Virginia, and soon after went into winter quarters near Orange Court-House.

In the Spring of 1864 we were engaged in the second Wilderness fight, and in the Spottsylvania Court-House fight; after which we went with Early into Maryland and took a hand in the Monocacy Bridge fight. On this trip we came within a few miles of Washington City, and General Early deciding, after a few days' reconnoitering, not to attack the place, we returned to the valley of Virginia.

We were next engaged successively in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek,



After the battle of Cedar Creek we were ordered to Petersburg, and there took position on Lee's extreme right, and were engaged in the last battles around that place. Lee fell back to Appomattox Court-House, where he surrendered on the 9th of April, 1865. After the surrender, we returned by way of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Alexandria, and reached home in the latter part of May, 1865, after an absence of more than four years.

ROLL OF CLAIBORNE GUARDS.

JOHN YOUNG, Captain.

J. B. PARIHAM, 1st Lieutenant.

J. M. ANDREWS, 2d Lieutenant.

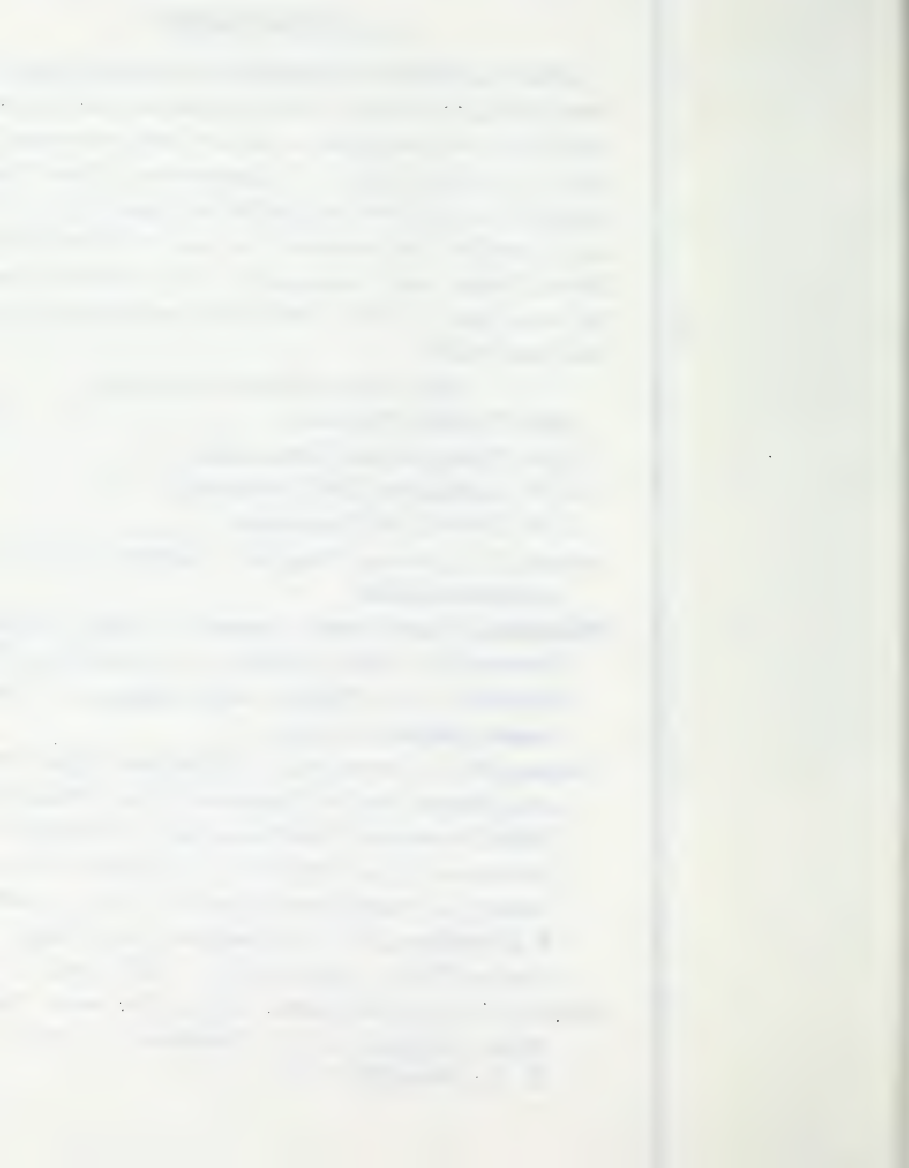
J. S. YOUNG, 3d Lieutenant.

Adams, J. L., died in Virginia; Andrews, F. M., killed at Malvern Hill.

Bridgeman, Jesse, died in prison at Point Lookout; Brown, J. L., lost; Brown, A. N.; Bowlin, T. N.; Blythe, A. S.; Blythe, M. S.; Bugg, Q., died at home, Claiborne Parish.

Cooksey, W. C., wounded in Wilderness fight; Cooksey, James, died in Richmond, Va.; Choat, J. M., killed in second Wilderness fight; Coleman, F. P.; Coleman, T. B.; Copeland, N.; Cotton, J. L.; Cox, Henry L., assassinated since the war; Clark, W. B.; Comtson, W. G.; Comtson, H.; Clegg, Wm.; Cotton, W. C.; Carter, B. B.; Cheatham, C. H.

Dyer, J. D., died at home during the war; Demitz, Peter; Dorman, J. C.; Davidson, J. M.; Dyer, E. L.; Dreskill, Will.



Elliott, J. M. B., being over age returned home at the reorganization in the Peninsula; Eiland, S. R., died; Evans, J. M., killed in second Manassas battle.

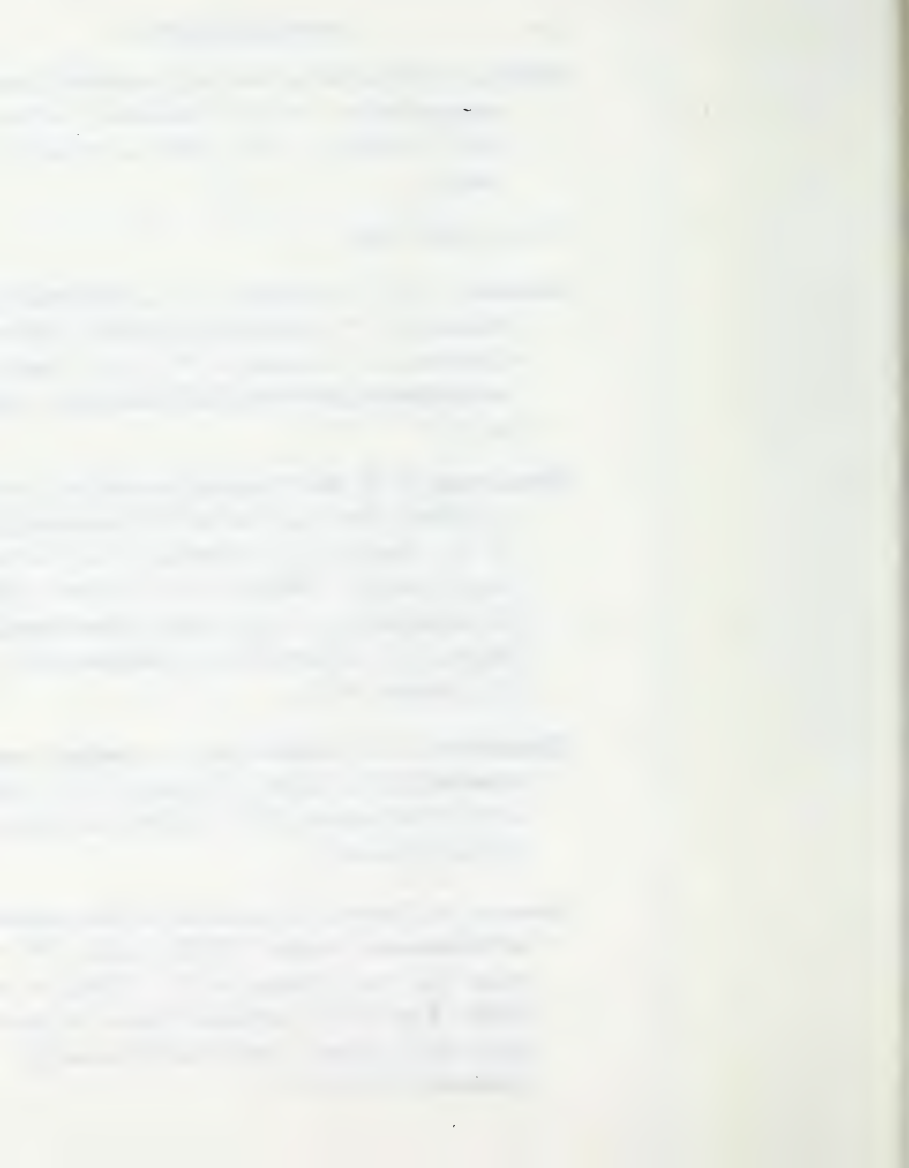
Frost, John, died.

Goodson, M. S.; Goodson, J. E.; Grimmett, W. J., Glover, E. P., died since the war; Glover, I. N.; Goodson, E.; Gunter, C. W., and Garret, C. P.; both killed at Malvern Hill; Garrett, J. H.; Galden, J. J.

Henderson, E. T., blown up in gunboat off coast of N. C.; Harris, Ben. R., died at Williamsburg; Harris, E. W.; Harris, J. T.; Harris, C. H., died since the war; Hall, W.; Henry, L. P., killed; Haley, R. B.; Hightower, W. C.; Hays, Seaborne, killed; Hays, J. B.; Heard, W. H.; Johnson, J.; Jeter, J. W.; Justis, W. A.

Kinnebrew, J. D., transferred to another company; Kimball, M. L., killed; Kilgore, B. F.; Kindrick, J. P.; Kirkpatrick, R. B., killed at Cedar Run; Kilgore, Robert.

Lyons, J. S.; Leseur, F. A., killed at the second battle of Manassas; Leslie, W. F.; Leslie, W. C., died since the war; Leake, J. F., killed at Malvern Hill; Lay, L. R., returned home at reorganization, and joined the Trans-Mississippi Army; Leonard, W. P. G.



McClendon, A., killed at Cedar Run; Meadors, J. C., wounded in Valley campaign; Martin, G. W.; Martin, M.; Meshaw, Alex., returned home at reorganization, over age; Miller, B. R.; Miller, Frank, killed at second Wilderness; Mullinix, S. P., died in prison, Camp Douglas, Ill.; Mullinix, G. W., killed at second Manassas; Monk, J. T.; Modisett, J.

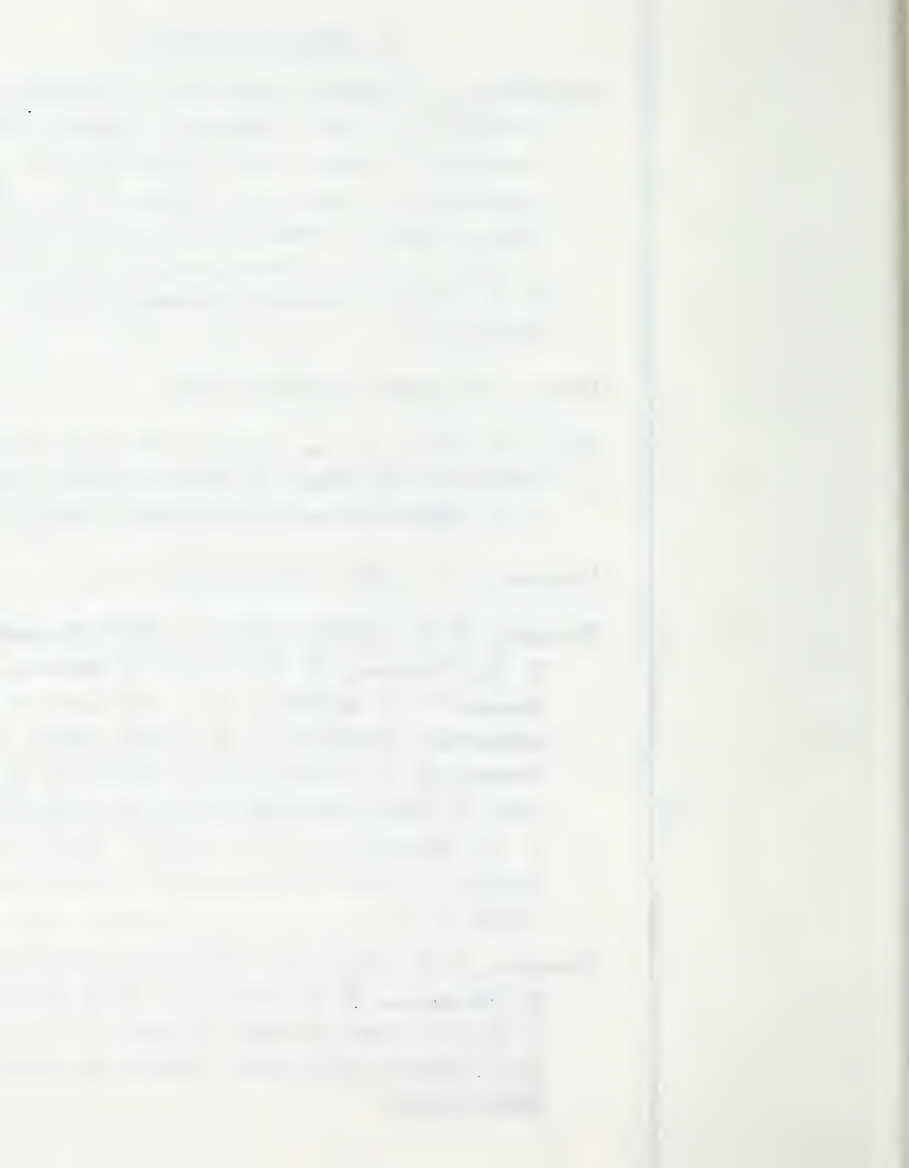
Orear, B. F., killed at Malvern Hill.

Price, W., blown up on gunboat off coast of N. C.; Patton, W. S., killed at Malvern Hill; Phillips, L. A., killed at second Wilderness; Pratt, C. B.

Quarles, G. W., died at Winchester, Va.

Rysidon, T. J., killed, March 3, 1863; Reynolds, L. F. R.; Robeson, B. F., killed at Malvern Hill; Reams, W. J.; Ragland, Alex., lost arm at Charlottesville; Roberson, L. B., killed; Riley, N. B.; Reams, R. A.; Simms, B. F.; Short, A. J.; Sem-sing, Z., died of sickness during the war; Simons, J. E.; Simmons, J. B., killed at Malvern Hill; Scridon, N., killed by a comrade in North Carolina; Smith, R. C.

Thornton, B. F., killed at Gettysburg; Thornton, G. P.; Thompson, R. E.; Thompson, J. R.; Thompson, C. H., died since the war; Toomey, L. P.; Taylor, J. L., killed at Gettysburg; Taylor, S. M.; Trager, Mike, killed.



Wyche, L. P., killed; Wise, A.; Webb, C.; Wilson, W. P., killed at Chancellorsville; Williams, P. A., died since the war; White, G. W., killed; Whitehead, G. W., killed; Warren, G. W.; Walker, J. M., died; Wrenn, G., killed at Cedar Run.

HISTORY OF THE "MINDEN BLUES," FURNISHED BY
MR. G. L. P. WREN.

This company was organized and mustered into service in April, 1861, at Minden, which town was then embraced within the territory of Claiborne Parish. J. L. Lewis was elected captain, and B. F. Sims, Thos. Tompkins, and Wm. Blackwell, lieutenants. On the 8th of June following the company left Minden for New Orleans, where it joined in the organization of the Eighth Louisiana Regiment of Infantry, with Henry B. Kelly as colonel, and Francis T. Nichols (now ex-Gov. Nichols) as lieutenant-colonel. The company with the regiment left for Virginia on the 7th of July, went immediately to Manassas, and was placed in the command of Gen. Beauregard. It was known in the regiment as Company G. Soon after reaching Manassas we were called into active service, being engaged in the battles of Bull Run and First Manassas, fought on the 18th and 21st of July. We remained here until the spring of 1862, and the twelve months for which we had enlisted having expired, we reorganized and enlisted for the war. In the re-organization, B. F. Sims was chosen captain, and S. Y. Webb, N. J. Saundlin, and G. L. P. Wren, lieutenants.



In April, 1862, General Dick Taylor's Brigade, to which we belonged, crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains and joined Gen. Stonewall Jackson's command, to which Taylor had been transferred. We engaged the enemy at Front Royal on the 23d, at Middle Town on the 24th, and at Winchester on the 25th of May, our company taking part in all these fights. The enemy was defeated and pursued until his whole army, under Banks, was driven across the Potomac. Jackson, hearing of Fremont and Shields on either side of the Shenandoah River inclosing his rear, made a hasty detour up the Shenandoah towards Staunton, and giving battle, defeated both. Company "G." was actively engaged in the battle of Cross Keys on the 18th, and in that of Port Republic, on the 9th of June, 1862.

Gen. Jackson was now ordered to Richmond, where the company, under him, was engaged in all the fights around that place; Coal Harbor, Malvern Hill, and others.

We were next engaged in Second Manassas battles, in which we fought four successive days. The writer was in command of the company at the time, and can testify that it did good fighting here, and suffered severely.

From here we marched into Maryland, crossing the Potomac at Leesburg. Re-crossing at Williamsport we took Harper's Ferry on the 15th of September; and then crossing for the third time, we fought the destructive battle of Sharpsburg on the 17th. We carried only 18 men into this fight, many having been



left behind on the forced march to reach this point in time, and when the wounded were borne from the field, only three of the company were left standing. Our next engagement was at Fredericksburg in December following.

In the spring of 1863, we participated in the fights around Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Next we were engaged in the fight at Gettysburg, the greatest battle of the war. On the 7th of November, 1863, our brigade engaged the enemy on the north bank of the Rappahannock, when many of the company were wounded and made prisoners. On the 5th of May, 1864, we took part in the engagement known as the battle of the Wilderness, and we continued to fight every day until the 12th, on which day, the writer, with a large part of the Division was captured near Spottsylvania Court House, and he was never again with the Company. The Company continued in active service to the end, taking a hand in the various actions around Richmond and in the Valley, until the surrender at Appomattox on the 9th. day of April, 1865.

ROLL OF THE "MINDEN BLUES."

J. L. LEWIS, Captain—resigned in April, 1862.

B. F. SIMS, 1st Lieutenant—afterward Captain—died in August, 1862.

THOS. TOMPKINS, 2d Lieutenant—left after the re-organization in April, 1862.

WM. BLACKWELL, 3d Lieutenant.

J. H. WEBB, Sergeant.



Alumus, Asa.

Boykin, John; Burson, E. L.; Barksdale, N.; Bell, B., killed in Maryland in 1864, I think; Boon, Gus; Burnham, Wm., killed in Maryland in 1864; Burnett, Cub, killed somewhere in the valley; Berry, Thos., died of sickness; Beach, Miles, wounded, valley campaign; Butler, Columbus; Beek, Dallas, lost a leg at Malvern Hill in 1862; Bailey, Bunch; Bailey, John, killed at Fredericksburg in 1863; Bailey, Ed., killed in battle.

Canfield, Marion; Collins, James, killed at Sharpsburg, 1862; Collins, Joe, wounded; Collins, George, killed near Richmond, 1862; Cox, M. S.; Crawford, W. A.; Cue, Miles, killed at Sharpsburg; Crichton, George, died at Manassas, 1861; Crichton, Wm., killed at Port Republic, June 9th, 1862; Crichton, Jack.

Daffin, George; Dawson, Thomas.

Fincher, Joe.

Garrison, W. O., wounded and lost a arm at Malvern Hill; Godley, Jesse; Gentry, Rus; Gerrin, John, died at Manassas, 1861; Genan, Wm. S.; Grounds, Josh; Grounds, John.

Hadley, Dave; Hutchins, James; Helms, Aaron, wounded at Fredericksburg, 1863; Hamilton E. J.; Howell, Green.

Kemp, Steven, wounded—lost a leg; Kingery—Kimball, Kit, killed; Kimball, George, died at home; King, Thos., wounded at Winchester.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income. The document further states that regular audits are necessary to verify the accuracy of these records and to identify any discrepancies or errors. It also mentions that proper record-keeping is essential for tax purposes and for providing a clear audit trail to stakeholders.

The second part of the document outlines the procedures for handling customer orders and inquiries. It stresses the need for prompt and courteous service to all customers, regardless of the size of their order. The document provides a step-by-step guide for processing orders, from initial contact to final delivery. It also includes a section on how to handle complaints and returns, emphasizing the importance of listening to customer feedback and resolving issues as quickly as possible. The document concludes by stating that excellent customer service is a key factor in building a successful business and maintaining a positive reputation.

Long, Robert; Lancaster, John; Leary, John; Lewis, Will S.; Lewis, Phillips; Lewis, A. L.; Loftin, Joe, died from a wound received at Frederickburg, 1863.

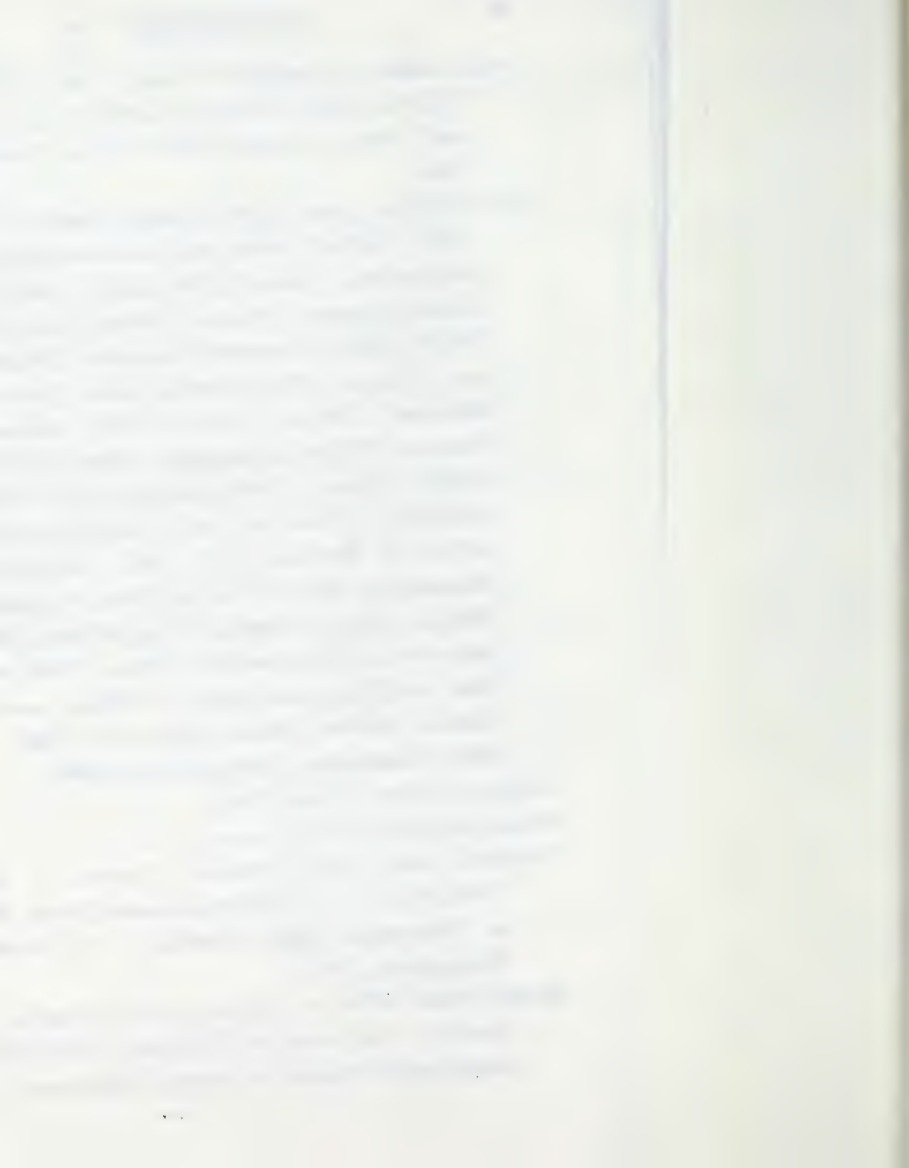
Murrell, Perry, died from wounds received at Gettysburg; Murrell, John, died from wounds received at Sharpsburg; Murrell, Sim, died in 1862 of measles; Morris, Janson; Morris, Jesse, killed; McNealy, Willy, killed at second Manassas; Moreland, Turner; Murphy, Pat; Mason, John; Morrow, Thos.; Morrow, Gillam, died in 1861; Morrow, Wm.; Morrow, Wilson; McIntire, John; McFarland, B.; McCoy, Henry; Montgomery, Ed.; Montgomery, Marshall, killed in 1864; Montgomery, Russell, killed at Malvern Hill, 1862; McManus, —; Montzingo, John, killed at Port Republic, 1862; Martin, Wm.; Martin, J. R., left near Richmond. sick—hasn't been heard of since; McKemie, Ab., died in Richmond, 1862; Malone, —; Mands, James; McKee, James, killed at Port Republic, 1862; Montzingo, Henry, died in 1861.

Noland, James; Nunn, Gus.

Oneal, Munroe; Oneal, —.

Pinkard, John, died in prison. Elmira, N. Y., 1865; Pinkard, G. G.; Phillips, James; Pratt, Ed., died at Manassas, 1861; Pratt, C. B., wounded at Sharpsburg, 1862.

Rawls, John, killed at Malvern Hill; Rawls, Frank; Rawls, Wm., died at Manassas, 1861; Rodrigres. Raymond, wounded at second Manassas, 1862,



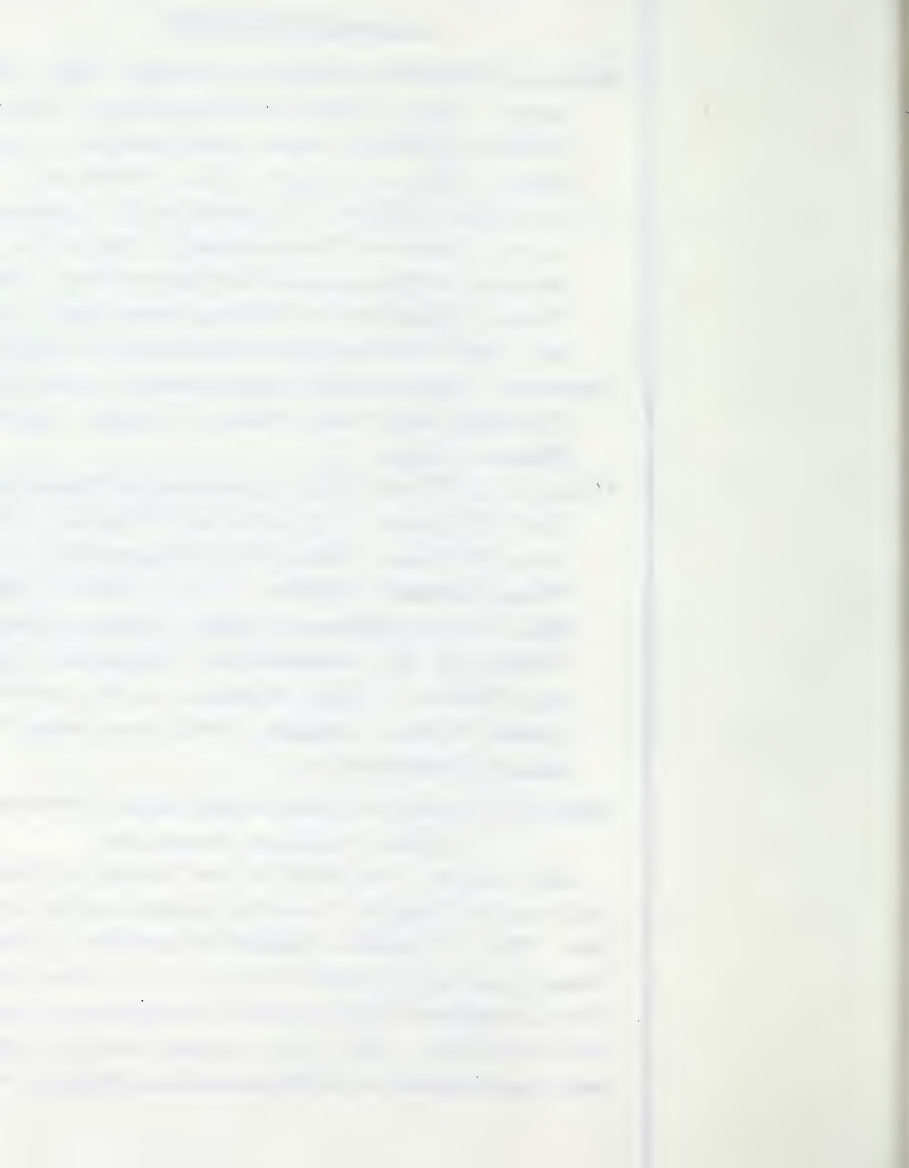
Simmons, Ferdinand, killed at Malvern Hill; Simmons, Lowry, killed at Gettysburg; Simmons, Albert; Strickland, Mose; Strickland, Sol.; Segar, James, killed at Malvern Hill; Strickland, E.; Shaw, Sam; Shaw, ---; Sandlin, N. J., wounded—lost a finger at Frederickburg; Smith, R. A., wounded at Manassas and at Gettysburg; Scott, Walter, transferred to 19th regiment; Scott, Robert, joined 19th regiment and killed at Nashville.

Thompson, Lafayette, died from wounds received at Frederickburg; Tooley, Thos.; Thomas, Ephraim. Thomas, Judge.

Webb, S. Y.; Wren, G. L. P., wounded at Sharpsburg, 1862; Williams, J. S., killed in Wilderness fight, 1864; Williams, Chas., killed at Sharpsburg, 1862; West, Richard; Walker, I. C., killed at Gains' Mill, near Richmond, 1862; Walker, Monroe; Walker, G. W., wounded in Wilderness—lost a leg; Walker, N. H.; Watkins, L. B., afterward joined Webb's company, 1862. now Judge Watkins of Coushatta, La.

HISTORY OF THE "MOORE INVINCIBLES," FURNISHED
BY MR. CHARLES MORELAND.

This company was raised in the vicinity of Homer, and was the third to leave the parish for the seat of war. The "Claiborne Guards" and the "Minden Blues" having preceded it only two or three weeks. It was mustered into service at Camp Moore, La., on the 13th of June, 1861, for the term of twelve months, and was assigned to the 9th Louisiana Infantry, which



was then forming, its letter being "A," and its position on the extreme right; and in this position it served during the war. Shortly after its organization the regiment was ordered to Virginia, and reported to Gen. Beauregard at Manassas. We served under Beauregard until January, 1862, when, in accordance with an act of the Confederate Congress, the company reinlisted for the war, receiving, therefor, bounties and furloughs. Returning after a sixty days' furlough the company reorganized by electing new officers, whose names and rank appear in the company roll, under the head of "Second Organization."

After reorganization the company was assigned to the corps of the immortal Stonewall Jackson, with which it served until the close of the war, participating in the following battles and skirmishes, to-wit: Front Royal, Middletown, first Winchester, Port Republic, Cross Keys, seven day's battles around Richmond, Cedar Mountain, second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Harper's Ferry, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, second Kernstown, second Winchester, Gettysburg, Raccoon Ford, Rappahannock Station, Hanover Junction, and in all the marches and battles of Early from the time his corps (the "Old Stonewall") was detached from Lee's main army and sent to Lynchburg to meet Hunter, until the battle of Fisher's Hill.

The most prominent of these engagements were the battle of Monocacy in Maryland, the movement on Washington, Opegnon Creek, and Fisher's Hill first mentioned.



After the Fisher's Hill fight the Company rejoined Lee in front of Petersburg, and nobly bore its part in the final struggles, undergoing all the hardships of the retreat from there to Appomattox Court-House, where it laid down its arms and quietly accepted the situation with the conscientious conviction of all duty unflinchingly performed.

Before bringing this sketch to a close we will mention briefly some changes which took place among the Company officers, resulting from resignations, deaths, and other causes. The first of these was occasioned by the resignation of 1st Lieutenant Alf. Blackman, whose place was filled by 2d Lieutenant Grigsby; 3d Lieutenant Wilbur F. Blackman became 2d Lieutenant, and Bledsoe Howell was elected from the ranks to be 3d Lieutenant. This was the only change under the first organization. Under the second organization the first change resulted from the death of 3rd Lieutenant Mills, Napoleon Henderson being chosen to fill this vacancy. Then came the death of Captain Grigsby, killed at Sharpsburg while in command of the regiment. First Lieutenant Montgomery now became Captain by promotion, 2d Lieutenant Bowling filling his place, and Napoleon Henderson becoming 2nd Lieutenant, while Sergeant Merrill Roland was elected 3d Lieutenant.

Napoleon Henderson, now 2d Lieutenant, was killed at Harper's Ferry, and 3d Lieutenant Roland became 2d Lieutenant, while Sergeant Wm. Dansby was the company's choice for 3d Lieutenant.



Lieutenant Bowling being seriously wounded and captured at Gettysburg, was never after able to do active service. Montgomery having lost a leg in a skirmish at Kernstown, was placed on the retired list, leaving the company in the command of Lieutenant Roland, who, in 1864, was sent to Louisiana on detached service. The command now devolved on Lieutenant Dansby, our only remaining commissioned officer, who, having served from Front Royal in 1862, to Petersburg in 1865 without missing a battle or losing a day from duty, was killed in the last fight in which the company engaged, presenting for the admiration of his surviving comrades, an example of heroic devotion to a cause they all held to be sacred.

In conclusion, the writer of this short sketch craves the indulgence of the surviving veterans of Company "A," and apologizes for the incompleteness of the company roll, and for other inaccuracies herein. Some names of persons who were wounded or killed, as well as the names of the battles in which they suffered, have, no doubt, escaped his memory; for he has been compelled to rely solely on memory, unaided by muster roll or other written data. After the lapse of twenty years, no wonder that the memory should, in some instances, be at fault. He regrets that the task of preparing this narrative did not devolve upon some one more competent to do the subject justice.

ROLL OF THE "MOORE INVINCIBLES."

Officers in First Organization,

R. L. CAPERS, Captain.



ALF. BLACKMAN, 1st Lieutenant.

RYDON GRIGSBY, 2d Lieutenant.

W. F. BLACKMAN, 3d Lieutenant.

THOS. BOWLING, Orderly Sergeant.

MERRILL ROLAND, 2d Sergeant.

....., 3d Sergeant.

FRANK MONTGOMERY, 4th Sergeant.

Officers in Second Organization.

RYDON GRIGSBY, Captain, killed at Sharpsburg.

FRANK MONTGOMERY, 1st Lieutenant, lost leg at Winchester, Va.

THOS. BOWLING, 2d Lieutenant, wounded at Gettysburg.

WM. MILLS, 3d Lieutenant, wounded and died at Harper's Ferry.

WM. DANSBY, Orderly, killed at Petersburg.

MERRILL ROLAND, 2d Sergeant.

N. HENDERSON, 3d Sergeant, killed at Harper's Ferry.

JAMES ARRINGTON, 4th Sergeant, wounded at Wilderness.

W. W. ARBUCKLE, Company Surgeon.

Anderson, Martin, killed at Petersburg; Arthur, M.; Arthur, S.; Arrington, John; Awbrey, Wm., died at Gordonsville; Anderson, M. V., killed at Second Manassas.



Blackman, A. O.; Berry, Wm., died in camp; Brown, Jack, wounded at Monocacy, Md.; Bernard, L. H., killed at Gettysburg; Butler, Lit, wounded at Gettysburg; Barrow, Wm.; Berry, Thomas; Blackwell, James; Boyle, John; Bias, Walker; Bonner, John, wounded at First Winchester; Beauchamp, Wm.; Bonn, Jake, killed at Fredericksburg; Butler, Wm.; Butler, James, killed at ———; Bryant, James; Blackman, H. B.

Cook, Alf., killed at Second Manassas; Cook, John; Clifford, Mike; Chaney, Wm., wounded at Spottsylvania; Cardwell, Jim, killed at Malvern Hill; Chandler, Jesse, wounded; Calhoun, Wm., killed; Crump, Joe, killed at First Winchester; Connelly, ———, killed; Carr, Thos., wounded at Wilderness; Calheren, Bell; Cleveland, Watt, died at Charlottesville.

Dawkins, Jack, wounded; Deau, Wm.; Dunkin, Pat; Dean, B., lost arm at Petersburg; Evans, Henry; Fomby, H.; Fomby, Walker.

Garrett, Ed.; Gallishan, G.; Gillespie, Pat, lost an arm; Grigsby, Dick, killed at Second Manassas; Griffin, Dunk.

Hill, Dave, wounded at Sharpsburg; Heflin, Jake, died at Gordonsville; Heflin, ———, died at Gordonsville; Harrison, Sam, killed; Howell, Daniel, died at Camp Bienville; Howell, Bledsoe; Harvill, Sam'l, wounded at Sharpsburg.

Irby, Frank; Irby, Wm. wounded at Gettysburg.



Jones, Jesse, wounded ; Johns, James ; Johnson, W. S., wounded at Gettysburg ; Johnson, J. W., killed accidentally at Fredericksburg ; Jones, W.

Kinnebrew, D., wounded.

Lewis, C. died in hospital ; Lakins, Wm. died.

Moore, Tim, killed at Sharsburg ; Morrell, White : Murry, Barney ; McDonald, Jack ; Moreland, C. T., wounded at Winchester ; Myers, I. V., wounded ; Myers, J. W. ; Murrill, Jack, died ; Murrill, John, died in hospital ; Merrit, Wm., wounded at Second Manassas and at Rappahannock ; McGowan, Joe ; McGowan, Curgo ; McLeod, Henry ; Mackin, Wm. ; Matthews, John ; Martin, N., wounded at Second Manassas.

Peddy, Wm. ; Pilcher, John ; Peterson, Thomas, lost an arm ; Pate, Thos., died at Camp Bienville ; Pate, Blake, died at Camp Carondelet ; Pate Jerome.

Reader, John, killed at Sharpsburg ; Reid, Tom ; Reid, Green, killed at Fredericksburg ; Rowell, died at hospital ; Rogers, C., wounded ; Rogers, George.

Stewart, Jim, killed at Second Winchester ; Stewart, J. D., wounded at Second Manassas ; Stacks, George ; Simmons, Wm., lost an arm ; Solomon, Wm. ; Stanalan, Jeff ; Swift ; Sanding, F. wounded at Sharpsburg ; Scott, Jesse, died at Point Look-out in prison ; Smart, A. D. ; Spinks, F. Captured ; Stanland, J. G.

Tuggle, N.; Torrence, Tom, wounded and captured at Sharpsburg; Thurston, O., lost; Tippet, John, died at Camp Bienville; Tippet, George.

Voluntine, Jerry.

Whittington, Joe, wounded at Second Manassas; Whittington, John; Wise, Polk, killed at Second Manassas; Whitlock, Jim; Wilson, Walter; Wilson, James; Walker, Green, died at Winchester, Va.; Walker, George, wounded at Sharpsburg; Walker, J. H., captured at Gettysburg; Walker, M.; Watson, J. H., died in hospital at Manassas; Worldly, Hiram.

Yancy, Daniel.

HISTORY OF THE "CLAIBORNE RANGERS."

The following account is compiled from notes and memoranda furnished us by a number of the surviving members of the Company.

The "Rangers" left Homer about 1st of July, 1861, for Camp Moore, La., where they were mustered into the service and became Company "B" of the 12th Louisiana Volunteers. The regiment remained at Camp Moore, under instructions for about seven weeks, when, in the latter part of August, it was sent to Columbus, Kentucky, stopping a few days on the way at Union City, Tennessee. The Company remained at Columbus until its evacuation, when it was sent to New Madrid, Missouri; thence to Island Ten, where it remained only a few days; and thence to Ft. Pillow, where it remained from March until May, 1862. The 12th. Louisiana, together with one Battalion of

infantry, and the heavy artillery constituted at this time the garrison of the place, and were subjected to a sixty-days bombardment from the fleet of Federal gunboats. After the evacuation of Ft. Pillow in May, we were sent to North Mississippi, and from here, after undergoing much and thorough drilling, and a good deal of marching and counter-marching, we were ordered, about the 7th of August, to Baton Rouge to reinforce Gen. Breckinridge, but arrived too late by two hours to participate in the fight at that place. We were now sent back to North Mississippi, and took part in the second battle of Corinth; after which we went into winter quarters, near Grenada, Mississippi.

In the spring of 1863, we were sent to the vicinity of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and were in the battle of Baker's Creek, on the 16th of May, where the company suffered considerably, several being wounded. The regiment was in General Loring's Division, which being cut off from Vicksburg, went out at night through the enemy's lines, marching thirty-six hours without rest or food; and joined the forces of General J. E. Johnston at Jackson. From this time until the fall of Vicksburg, on the 4th of July, the company under General Johnston, was manœuvering in the rear of Grant's army. After the surrender of Vicksburg, we went to Jackson where we were attacked by the Federals, and were engaged eight days. Being flanked by the enemy, we were compelled to fall back east-

ward to Brandon, Mississippi. After consuming the fall in manœuvering and marching back and forth on the lines of the railroads, we went into winter quarters at Demopolis, Alabama. Early in 1864, we were ordered to join the army of General Johnston, in North Georgia, and arrived in time to take a hand in the battle of Resaca, the first in the series of engagements in that memorable campaign against Sherman. The company was also in the fights at Lost Mountain and Bethel Church, and was engaged almost daily until the fall of Atlanta, suffering heavy loss, especially on the 22d of July, at Peachtree Creek before Atlanta. After the fall of Atlanta, the company was in General Hood's Tennessee Campaign, and were engaged with the enemy almost daily from Atlanta to Dalton. We were in the advance from Columbia to Franklin, Tennessee, and among the first to charge the Federals at Franklin. We were also in the fight before Nashville. In the two last named, we suffered severely in killed and wounded. After the action at Nashville, we retreated to Florence, Alabama, and thence went to Corinth, Mississippi, where we were supplied with clothing which we were greatly in need of, and also drew six months' wages. The majority of us had marched from Nashville, Tennessee, to Corinth, Mississippi, over the frozen ground without shoes. We wrapped our feet with rags and pieces of blankets, and were thus to some extent protected from the severe frost. During the greater part of this trip we received only one-third rations of cornmeal and bacon, the

country we passed through having been exhausted and laid waste by the two armies the previous spring. Much of the timber on the way was dead, having been killed by cannon shots and shells. Waste corn had, in many places, come up and made nubbins, which the hungry men would gather and eat voraciously.

In February, 1865, the company was ordered to join Gen. Johnston in North Carolina. All rejoiced at the thought of being once more under the command of their beloved Joe Johnston. In March, 1865, the company was engaged with Sherman's advance at Smithfield, North Carolina. This was its last fight. On April 26, 1865, we were surrendered at Greensborough, N. C., and reached home on the 7th of June, after an absence of not quite four years.

ROLL OF THE "CLAIBORNE RANGERS."

Adams, West, J. Allen, Ben. Anderson, Lee, died at Camp Moore, La.; Armour, Wm., Aubrey, Wm., killed in battle, North Carolina; Allen, Benjamin, wounded at Nashville.

Baker, Wm. H., transferred to Maddox's Co., 17th Regiment; Baker, Tom J., parolled with Co. J, Bowler. Tom wounded at Nashville, Tenn.; Boring, Wm., wounded at Nashville, Tenn.; Boring, Joe; Brown, Tom. M. Brown, Otis A., accidentally killed at Corinth by a comrade; Bonner, Jim; Burns, Monroe, Burns, John, Banks, —, died at Columbus, Ky.; Barnard, James, parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Browning, George; Bush, Henry.

died at Columbus, Ky.; Burley, Richard, died in Tennessee.

Calloun, Alex. C., parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Camp, John, discharged at Camp Moore; Camp, Jim, discharged at Camp Moore; Carr, Lauier, died at Columbus, Ky.; Carr, John, died at Camp Moore, La.; Clark, Henry, wounded at Coffeeville, Miss.; Collier, P. C., discharged, over age; Copeland, Dick; Cale, John; Crawford, E., parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Crow, R. A., fourth Captain, died at Atlanta, Ga.; Crow, J. J., fifth Captain; Crow, D. McD., parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Crow, Thos., parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Culver, J. N., parolled at Greensborough, N. C.; Cunningham, Lafayette, wounded in battle at Nashville.

Daniel, John, parolled with the Company; Doyle, James, died at Abbeville, Miss.; Doyle, David, parolled with the Company.

Evans, Robt., second Lieutenant, first year; Evans, Charley, died at Columbus, Ky.

Freeman, Francis.

Green, Thos. F. parolled with command; Graves,—, died at Camp Moore, La. Gryder, Martin, parolled with the Command; Gryder, Chas., died at Camp Moore, La. Gryder, H. Clay, discharged; Griffith,— parolled with the command; Gall, Morris, died at Fort Pillow, Tenn; Gibson, Henry, killed in battle Nashville Tenn.

Hamiter, Cope, discharged; Hendricks——died; Hargrove, B. F., lost a foot at Franklin, Tenn; 1st Lieutenant at time; Hardaway, Med., parolled with the command; Haisty, Wm., died at Columbus, Ky; Hays, Robt., killed in battle at Kingston, N. C. Haynes, Mat; Harrison, Richd; Henderson, Luther, 3d Lieutenant—died; Hicks,—died; Hines Rubin, died; Hines, Thos., discharged—over age; Hightower, R. R., discharged at Columbus, Ky. Hollingsworth,—, died; Hooper, Nathan, parolled with command; Horton, J. G., discharged at Camp Moore, La. Houston, Tom., parolled with the command; Hudson, Wm. N., parolled with the command; Hudson, John; Holliman, Dick, died at Columbus, K.y

Johnson, Henry.

Leonard, Isaac L., 2nd Captain, died at Columbus, Ky.

Lyndsey, Battle B., discharged—over age.

Martin, Clay, Martin, W. C., Mayfield, Chan.,lost;

McAuley, James, parolled at Greensborough, N. C.

McAuley, Henry, died; McAuley, John, died at Columbus, Ky. McAuley, Hiram, died at Jackson,

Miss. McCarty,—, died at Camp Moore; McCoy,

Nealy, parolled with the command; McEachern,

Tom; McEachern, John, captured at Vicksburg.

Miss. McMillan,—, died; McRea, Warren, died

at Columbus, Ky. McWilliams, Jas., died at Fort

Pillow, Tenn. McDonald, Wm; Menefee Syranus,

parolled with the command; Merritt,—, died

at Camp Moore; Modisett, Wm., died at Camp

Moore; Mimms, A., died at Camp Moore; Montzingo, A. P., transferred to Cavalry; Montzingo, R., parolled with command; Monzingo, L., parolled with command; Moon, John T., parolled with command; Moore, Jerry, died at Fort Pillow, Tenn; Mimms, S., discharged at Camp Moore; Moore——disappeared; Morgan, Wm., died at Fort Pillow; Morris, Wm., parolled with command.

Nealy, John, parolled with command; Nelson, Noel, 3d Captain and subsequent Colonel of the Regiment—killed in battle, Franklin, Tennessee; Nelson, Wm.; Newsome, Charley, died; Nicholson J. W., 2d Sergeant, parolled with command; Neal,

Oakes, Lafayette, 1st Sergeant—discharged, over age; Oakes, John, discharged; Odum, Nat.

Palmer, Wm., parolled with command; Patton, S. A., parolled with command; Phillips, Wm., parolled with command; Phillips, Henry, died; Phipp, James, died at Grenada, Mississippi; Potts, John, discharged at Camp Moore.

Randle, Rev. Richmond, Chaplain—died at Columbus, Kentucky; Randle, Thos. S., transferred to cavalry; Randle, Robert.

Scott, Thos. M., 1st Capt. —“elected Colonel” of the Reg. and subsequently promoted to Brigadier General, wounded at Franklin, Tennessee; Scott, —discharged, over age; Scott, George, discharged; Shaw, Wm., died; Sikes, James, 3d Lieutenant, died at Abbeville, Mississippi; Sikes, Ben F.,

parolled with the command; Sikes, Sr., Ben., killed at Vicksburg; Slack, R., Died at Camp Moore; Smith, Jonas. 1st Sergeant—subsequently Regimental Brigade and Division Commissary; Smith O. A., 3d Sergeant—parolled with the command; Smith, Milton, died at Columbus, Kentucky; Sterling, Bennett, died at Camp Moore.

Taylor, Monroe, transferred to 17th La.; Taylor, Joe F., wounded in battle of Nashville, Tennessee; Taylor, Mark, parolled with the command; Thomason, Josh., discharged; Tillman, Wm., died; Talbert, Nat, died at Verona, Mississippi; Traylor, Dave, discharged at Columbus, Kentucky; Taylor, John A., wounded at Atlanta, Georgia; Tally, —, died; Tucker, Sim.

Vincent, Henry, lost.

Wallis, Dave, killed at Nashville, Tennessee; Wallis, Joe; Wallis, Billy; Weeks, —; Wilburn, Wm. H.; White, Matthew, wounded accidentally and discharged at Columbus, Kentucky; White, Jas. W. parolled with the command; White, J. Pike, died at Vicksburg; Wolfe, —, disappeared.

HISTORY OF THE "CLAIBORNE GRAYS."

This Company "D" in the regiment—was composed of men from two sections of the parish, Minden and Athens, the former furnishing about fifty and the latter about thirty. It was agreed that its officers should be chosen alternately from the two sections, and that Minden, as she furnished the most men, should have the first officer. The company was organized in

October, 1861, with W. B. Scott, captain, and R. P. Webb, C. L. Weldon, and Mat Leverett, lieutenants, and left about the 20th, of the same month for Camp Moore. While at Camp Moore about thirty men from other parishes joined the company. The company was assigned to the 19th Louisiana Regiment of Infantry then forming at that place. We left Camp Moore for New Orleans about the middle of December, and remained there until February, 1862, when we were ordered to Corinth, Mississippi. We passed some weeks here, and then went to Tennessee, reaching there in time to take part in the battle of Shiloh on the 6th and 7th, of April. The affair at Shiloh over, we went to Pollard, Alabama, where we remained until April, 1863. From Pollard we were ordered to Tennessee, and thence went to Jackson, Mississippi, to aid the Vicksburg army, but arrived there too late to do any good—the city had surrendered a day or two before. After the fall of Vicksburg we returned from Big Black to Jackson where we had a little fight without any casualties. Being flanked at Jackson we retired eastward into the middle of the State, where we remained till the end of summer, and then went to Tennessee where we took part in the battles of Chickamauga on the 19th and 20th of September.

We then went to Chattanooga, from which place we fell back to Missionary Ridge, when the Federals charged us nearly all day, and never could have dislodged us had they not flanked us out. We had so few men

that we had to place them five feet apart, and still our line was not long enough. We now went into winter quarters at Dalton, Georgia. From Dalton we made the famous fighting retreat toward Atlanta. At Resaca, we had a lively engagement in which the "Grays" suffered considerably. Outnumbered by Sherman, we fell back from place to place in rapid succession. At New Hope Church, we had a considerable engagement. We remained there three days, having to keep very close during the day and to get our water at night. Here Major Winfrey B. Scott was killed, on the 27th of May. Major Scott was a good officer, and a gentlemen of lofty Christian character. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of his men, who without exception deeply deplored his death. From New Hope we fell back to Kennesaw Mountain, where we again had a pretty lively battle, and thrashed the enemy. We now fell back to Atlanta. Johnson being removed, we were engaged with Gen. Hood, in all the fights around Atlanta, which to us were the hardest of the war. A number of the company were killed, and nearly all the survivors wounded, in these engagements. Leaving Atlanta, Hood went to Jonesburg. Sherman followed and attacked; and we had a very severe engagement. Sherman returned to Atlanta. We now on the 20th. of November, left for Tennessee. We passed near Dalton, Georgia, tore up the railroad, burned bridges, crossed Lookout Mountain near where it runs down into Alabama, saw the famous Cave Springs, and drank of this wonderful

water; crossed the Tennessee River, at Florence, Alabama, drove out the Federals from that place, went to Columbia, danked the enemy, and would have captured him but for bad management on the part of some. From Columbia we went to Franklin. The road from Columbia to Franklin was strewn with dead mules, broken wagons and army stores, our cavalry and several corps being in advance, and driving the enemy before them. When within about thirty miles of Franklin, we heard artillery, and as we approached nearer, the reports grew louder, indicating that a battle was in progress. Pushing ahead with increased speed, we reached the scene of action about sunset, and were immediately placed in line of battle, but had no fighting to do, as the engagement was about over. The Federals stole out that night, and the morning light revealed the battle-field of the previous day; a ghastly scene of the dead and dying. From Franklin we went to Nashville, and participated in the disastrous fight there, the last unhappy effort of the Tennessee campaign. From Nashville we retreated to Mississippi and went into camps on the M. and O. Railroad. From here we went to Mobile, Alabama, and thence across Mobile Bay to Spanish Fort, where the last scene in the great drama was soon enacted. At Mobile, on the 4th of May, 1865, we surrendered to Gen. Canby.

The above is from notes furnished by Mr. H. A. McFarland. The following roll of the company was furnished by Rev. J. A. Walker:

ROLL OF THE "CLAIBORNE GRAYS."

Allums, W. D., died at Tupelo Church, Miss.

Beaston, Samuel, died in hospital; Bonard, J. H., wounded; Brazeale, D. B., wounded at Chickamauga; Bridges, Frank; Britt, D. H., promoted Sergeant in 1863, killed July 28, 1864; Bickly, George, wounded; Blackwell, A. H.; Berry, T. M., 4th Sergeant; Brown, John, promoted to color Sergeant and to second Lieutenant in 1864.

Cannon, D. J., Regimental Sutler, died 1863; Cargill, D. B.; Carr, C. B., died at Tupelo, Miss., 1862; Childress, O. B., promoted to Sergeant; Childers, J. H., captured at Chickamauga; Colbert, W. T., died at Corinth, Miss., 1862; Cooper, Robert, discharged—over age; Collins, W. H.; Culbertson, W. S.; Culbertson, W. P., captured at Nashville in 1864.

Dance, J. M., wounded at Chickamauga; Davis, J. C. Gall, Jacob; Geven, J. P., lost an arm in battle, 1864; Giddens, G. N.; Goodson, Dock; Goodson, James; Geren, J. M., killed at Atlanta; Green, W. D.; Green, David; Grall, Lewis, lost at Shiloh; Oiven, T. R.

Hardy, E. W.; Hargrove, W. H.; Harris, J. A., killed in battle near Atlanta; Harris, J. W.; Harris, R. C.; Hell, T. J., died in 1862; Hall, Green, killed at Chickamauga; Ham, E. W., died at Corinth, Miss.; Howard, H. W., wounded at Chickamauga; Hussy, W. B.

Jones, T. J. 1st Corporal; Jones, Wm., 2nd Corporal;
Jones, F. S.; Johnson, B. F.

Kemp, Lem., died at Corinth, Miss., 1862.

Lewis, J. M., wounded at Resaca; Lewis, W. B.,
wounded at Atlanta and afterward died; Lightsy,
D. M., killed at Spanish Fort, Ala.; Langford,
John.

Murphy, Charley, wounded at Shiloh; McClelland,
W. F., discharged in 1863; McIntyre, F. J., died
in Mississippi in 1863; McIntyre, I. L., killed at
Jonesborough; Mason, A. D.; Morris, A. C.,
killed at Chickamauga; Mosely, W. G.; McDaniel,
S. S., wounded at Chickamauga; McFarland, H.
A., wounded near Atlanta, promoted to color
bearer in 1864; Minchew, P. L., killed by a citizen
of Jackson, Miss., in 1863; Miller, Morris, 1st
Lieutenant in reorganization, promoted to Captain
in January 1864, wounded near Atlanta, disabling
him for further service; Miller, Micha, 3rd Ser-
geant, died at Tupelo, Miss., 1862; McIntyre F. J.,
died in Mississippi in 1863.

Newsome, T. M.; Newsome, W. D.; Newsome, Wm.,
discharged; Newman, Samuel, 2d Lieutenant jr., in
reorganization, promoted to Captain of command
in 1863.

Pool, Wm., killed in battle at Chickamauga.

Rochester, Samuel, promoted to Company Sergeant in
1864; Rhymes, Gus, detailed as musician.

Sanders, D. M.; Seehon, Jas., wounded; Scott, Robert,
promoted to Adjutant of an Artillery Company,

and killed in battle near Nashville, 1864; Stanly, I. C., under age and discharged; Sullivan, John; Sprawls, J. J.; Shoemet, C., jumped overboard while going from Tensas landing to Mobile and drowned, supposed to be insane; Scott, W. B., re-elected Captain in March 1862, promoted to Major at Dalton, Ga., wounded at New Hope Church on 27th of May, and died at Marietta, Ga., a few days afterward; Scott, Walter, second Lieutenant in re-organization, wounded at Chickamauga and at Atlanta, disabling him for further service; Shuttleworth, John, wounded at Chickamauga, second Seageant.

Tedder, J. L., lost a leg.

Walker, J. A., 1st Sergeant, elected 2nd Junior Lieutenant 1863, wounded at Resaca, 1864; Wilson, A. K., killed at Chickamauga; Wren, B. H., discharged for physical disability; Wren, A. D.; Wilson, A. L., died at Rome, Ga., 1863; Wilson, D. C.; White, W. B., wounded at Chickamauga and died at West Point, Ga.; Woodward, H. L.; Wernett, Peter, lost; Wise, G. F., killed at Spanish Fort, 1865; Winfrey, T. J., discharged; Young, T. S.

HISTORY OF COMPANY "G," 12TH LOUISIANA INFANTRY.

The following was furnished by Mr. A. T. Nelson:

This company was organized in Homer on the 4th of March, 1862, with Thomas Hightower, Captain, Zack Grigsby, Thornton Bridgeman, and James Potts,

Lieutenants; and Thomas Price, Sergeant. The company left Homer on the 18th of March for Fort Pillow, Tenn., where on the first day of April, 1862, we joined the 12th Louisiana infantry, and witnessed some of the realities of war, for on that day the Federals bombarded the fort. The company not yet being properly armed, was sent about five miles down the river to guard the hospital, and to bury the dead; and being unaccustomed to the cruelties of war, this was the most painful duty we ever performed.

About the first of June, 1862, Fort Pillow was evacuated, and we fell back to Grenada, Miss., soon after which we commenced a series of marches which lasted until the close of the war, and which for the distance traveled and hardships endured, is unsurpassed. If the reader will follow me, I will endeavor to travel the road over again, and review the battle fields on which Company "G" stood shoulder to shoulder with other gallant companies from our own and other parishes, until the surrender of Johnston's Army at Greensborough, N. C.

In August, 1862, we were ordered from Grenada to Port Hudson, where we remained about ten days, and then returned to North Miss., and were at the battle of Corinth, fought on the 4th of October, 1862. After this we went into winter quarters near Grenada. In February, 1863, we were again ordered to Port Hudson, where we remained about five weeks. During this time the Federal gun-boats attempted to pass the Confederate batteries, one of which succeeded, but the

second was set on fire by hot shot from our batteries. This was the first time we ever saw hot shot used, and being at night, it was to us a grand exciting scene. On the 5th of April we left Port Hudson to join Bragg's army in Tennessee, but on reaching Atlanta, Ga., we received orders to return to Mississippi to intercept Grierson's cavalry which had raided into that State. Arriving at or near Vicksburg we were ordered to Port Gibson, and covered the retreat of our army from that place to Big Black River; went from there to Edward's Depot, participated in the battle of Baker's Creek on the 16th of May, and being cut off from Vicksburg, went out at night through the enemy's camps, crossed the Illinois Central Railroad at Crystal Springs, and went into camps at Jackson. Previous to the Baker's creek fight our company was well clothed. We had a man regularly employed to make trips to Claiborne and bring us clothing made by our wives and sisters. This man, whose name was Linchicum, had arrived in camps just before the fight with a supply of clothing. As the clothes made our knapsacks too heavy to carry into battle we laid them aside, expecting to resume them after the victory; but unfortunately we lost the fight, and during the remainder of the war we could have carried all the clothes we had into any battle with ease.

We left Jackson the 10th of June in the direction of Yazoo City, camped on Panther Creek, and from this place moved by slow approaches in the direction of Vicksburg, and were camped on Big Black river at the

surrender of that place. Vicksburg fallen, we fell back to Jackson, which place was held long enough to get all the supplies moved to Meridian. From Jackson we went to Morton about 40 miles east of Jackson, where we staid until November; thence to Canton, and into winter quarters. In January, 1864, we moved about 40 miles north of Canton where we spent about six weeks, and then went to Denopolis; thence Montevalo, where we remained until about the first of April. From Montevalo we were ordered to Dalton, Georgia, and on reaching Resaca met the Tennessee army on its famous retreat to Atlanta. From this time until the fall of Atlanta, on the 31st of August, 1864, Company 'G' lost a large number of gallant men, as may be seen by the roll. Atlanta abandoned and Johnston removed from command, we left Jonesborough, Georgia, under General Hood, about the middle of October, and crossing the Chatahoochie river 25 miles below Atlanta and the Coosa 12 miles below Rome, Georgia, we struck the railroad at Resaca and destroyed it to Dalton. At Dalton we turned to the left, and struck the Tennessee River at Decatur, Alabama, at which place we had a light engagement with the enemy. We crossed the Tennessee River at Florence, and on the 30th of November were engaged in the battle of Franklin. From Franklin we went to Nashville, where on the 15th and 16th of December we were engaged in the fight at that place. From Nashville we were ordered to Tupelo, Mississippi. This was a time that tried our men severely.

Many were barefoot, thinly clad, and all had but little to eat. From Tupelo we went by way of Mobile, Columbus, Macon, and Augusta, to North Carolina, and joining General Johnston, participated in the battle of Bentonville. After this fight Johnston fell back to Greensborough, where on the 26th of April, 1865, he surrendered the forces under his command. The members of Company "G," reduced to eleven men, now turned their faces homeward, and landed in Homer on the 6th of June, having been absent more than 3 years.

ROLL OF "COMPANY G, 12TH REGIMENT"

Aléxander, John; Ashby, G. W., wounded near Atlanta; Ashby, J. W.; Adams, Joe; Allen, W. J. Brown, J. N., captured; Brown, W., died at Camp Green; Blythe, John, Sergeant; Berry, J.; Bridgeman, Thornton, 3rd Lieutenant—promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, Grigsby resigning; Bradley, J. died; Bank, A., left sick on the road from Camp Green to Randolph, and never heard from.

Carr, A., killed at Peachtree Creek; Camp, W., killed in North Carolina; Courtney, J.; Courtney, S.; Cason, M., died at Grenada, Mississippi; Cason, John, paroled and died at home; Chandler, Gillan; Crow, Tom; Callanan Jim, 3d Sergeant; Clark, C. C., wounded at Coffeeville, Mississippi.

Dean, John; Dunn, John; Dyer, Ike, discharged at Memphis, Tennessee.

Elkins, John; Evans, Henry, wounded and captured at Nashville.

Festivan, Jack.

Glass, Alberta; Groome, George, died at Oxford; Goodson, Wm.; Greer, Wm., Died at Canton, Mississippi; Glover, Ed.; Greer, John; Grigsby Zack, 1st Lieutenant; Groves, Ed., died at Grenada, Mississippi; Grillet, Wm., died; Garland, W. W., 2nd Sergeant; Grider Wm.; Gleason, J., died in prison at Rock Island; Grove, Forest; Goodson, Willie

Holiman, K. E., died at Oxford, Mississippi; Hellin, H.; Haulford, John, lost leg near Atlanta; Haulford, Thomas, discharged and died on his way home; Hathcock, Wm.; Hamilton, Thos.; Hamiter, Samuel, killed at Kennesaw Mountain; Hamiter, John; Hasty, Noel, Corporal; Hasty, Simp.; Hightower, Thos., Captain—resigned in 1862; Hobdy, Lawrence.

Johnson, H. J., exchanged for A. J. Nelson; James, Claiborne.

Kimbell, Judson, captured—wounded; Kirkpatrick, Hugh, killed at Franklin, Tenn; Kirkpatrick, Sam; Kirkpatrick, J. M.

Lowe, T. T.; Lyons, Joe, elected 3rd Lieutenant in place of Grigsby, who had resigned—afterward promoted to 2nd Lieutenant; Lee, Barny.

Moore, J. C.; Mitchell, Hanes, died at Oxford, Miss Murrell, B., Markham, Francis, lost; Myer, Wm. Mosely Wm. M.; Mayfield Jake, lost on a retreat from North Miss; McMahon, R., killed at Peach Tree Creek; Minams, Stephen, died at Grenada;

Nelson, A. T., Sergeant; Nelson, A. J.; Nix, Nat, lost an arm at Franklin, Tenn.

Odom, James.

Price, Thos., Orderly Sergeant—elected Captain to fill place of Hightower resigned; Potts, James, 3d Lieutenant resigned: Pair, J. M.; Patrick, Jas.; Corporal, killed at Decatur, Alabama; Robertson, Wm. W.; Ramble, Wm. and Pair, Issarel.

Shaw, John, died at Oxford, Miss; Shaw, James; Simms, Tom, killed at Peach Tree Creek; Strong, Wm. M.; Summerhill, J.; Schaif, A., elected 3d Lieutenant in place of Potts resigned—and was killed at Nashville, Tenn; Stocks, J.,—captured at Baker's Creek.

Thomas, N. J., Thigpen, J. H.

Westbrook, Sam, died at Oxford, Miss; Wooten, T. T. Yachter, G. W. G.

HISTORY OF THE "CLAIBORNE INVINCIBLES," COMPANY "H," 17TH LOUISIANA INFANTRY, BY CAPTAIN
A. L. HARPER AND LIEUTENANT J. H. HAY.

The company left the parish Oct. 25th, 1861, numbering seventy-five or eighty men, under command of Capt. Wm. A. Maddox; 1st Lieutenant, John G. Heard; 2d Lieutenant, G. M. Kilgore; 3d Lieutenant, J. A. Simmons. The company arrived at Camp Moore on Oct. 6th, and went from there to New Orleans on November 27th; and after camping about the city in various places was sent to Corinth, Mississippi, reaching there Feb. 21st, 1862. On the 1st day of March, was sent to Henderson Station, Tennessee, on picket

duty, which was its first actual service. We had orders to return to Corinth on the 17th of March, in anticipation of the battle of Shiloh which occurred on the 6th and 7th of April, and in which the company was actively engaged. Capt. W. A. Maddox was severely wounded in this action, and never recovered sufficiently to engage in active duty again. The company was sent to Vicksburg, May the 7th, 1862, and formed part of the garrison at that place until it was surrendered on the 4th day of July, 1863, having been in active service about two years and ten months.

The company was reorganized May, 21st, 1862, at Edwards, Mississippi, electing as officers, G. M. Kilgore, Captain; M. C. Leake, 1st Lieutenant; A. L. Harper, 2d Lieutenant; and J. D. Hamilton, 3d Lieutenant. We were in action at Chickasaw Bluff, having been detached as skirmishers to meet the enemy. The company did good service here, led by Capt. Paul Hamilton of Gen. S. D. Lee's staff, a gallant South Carolinian who lost his life in this action. The Orderly Sergeant of the company, S. J. McDonald, lost a leg here, which was the only casualty suffered by the company.

The company was next actively engaged at the battle of Port Gibson, on the first of May, from 12 o'clock till 6 o'clock in the evening, in which Privates C. T. Murphy and W. H. Baker were killed. On the 2d of May we retired to Vicksburg, and thence were again ordered to Baker's Creek, but were not called into action there, the engagement being virtually over

when we arrived. From that point we again went into the trenches around Vicksburg, which was closely invested by the Union army until the surrender of the entire garrison. During this period the company saw hard times and suffered some of the worst experiences of a soldier's life, harassed by shot and shell by night and day, constantly on the alert to repulse assaults, and never sure of an hour's rest. In addition to these discomforts, we were on short rations in the last days of the siege, the daily allowance running as low as seven ounces of bread and four of pork, and finally the ration of bread was reduced to four ounces per day for each man. It was at this time that mule steaks came into favor. Here the company suffered a loss in the death of First Lieutenant Leake, who was wounded on May 30th, and died June 5th, 1863. A. L. Harper was now promoted to be First Lieutenant, J. D. Hamilton to be Second Lieutenant, and J. H. Hay was elected by the company Third Lieutenant. On the 19th of May, in the first assault of the enemy on our works, Private H. B. Dansby was killed and Young Short severely wounded. On the 16th of June Private W. R. Arthur was killed, and S. B. Dubose seriously wounded by the explosion of a shell. On the 22d of June, Private J. W. Thornton died of wounds received on the 20th. The above constitute the losses of the company in action, so far as remembered. Our good fortune in not losing more men can only be attributed to the fact that the company was almost constantly held as a reserve for emergencies that never came.

After the surrender of Vicksburg and the parolling of the command, the company came over into the Trans-Mississippi Department to their homes in squads of various sizes. On this trip home Capt. G. M. Kilgore of the company, a noble and gallant officer, died of sickness on the Ouachita River, a few miles below Monroe, on the 27th of July, 1863. The "Lost Cause" had no more self-sacrificing martyr than G. M. Kilgore. Though harrassed by disease and naturally of a feeble physical constitution, his devotion to duty never relaxed until death.

In the latter part of 1863, perhaps in December, under the impression that an exchange would be effected, our regimental commander called us into camp about ten miles below Shreveport. No exchange of prisoners was made known, and we again returned to our homes, till about the 1st of April, 1864, when we were again called into camp near Minden, La. After a stay at this point of two or three weeks, we moved to Pineville, opposite Alexandria, on Red River. Shortly after coming to Pineville we were exchanged and again furnished with arms. The vacancy in the company officers, caused by the death of Capt. Kilgore, was filled by the election of Walter Hall to be Third Lieutenant, and the promotion of A. L. Harper to the Captaincy, J. D. Hamilton to be First Lieutenant, and J. H. Hay, to be Second Lieutenant. No other changes occurred, and the company stood with these officers till the end came. It saw no other active service except marching and

counter-marching up and down the Red River valley, with all the privations, discomforts, and amusements incident to a soldier's life. This period of our existence had its lights as well as its shadows. Blackberries were abundant and went a long way to relieve the bold scarcity of the Confederate commissary, while our duties were light and confined mainly to hearing rose-colored reports of Confederate victories on the other side of the "Father of Waters."

The greater part of the data from which this sketch was written is derived from a diary kept by Capt. A. L. Harper, from the organization of the company till his return home from Vicksburg. The little book in which it was kept has a history of its own. It was picked up on the field after the fight of Chickasaw Bayou, where it had been lost by a Federal corporal—Jesse E. Goodyear—and contained a list of his Company, "K," 16th Ohio Volunteers, officers and men, and also a list of the boats which had left Memphis for the reduction of Vicksburg.

ROLL OF THE "CLAIBORNE INVINCIBLES."

Aycock, S. B.; Aycock, Willis; Allen, R. A., wounded at Shiloh; Arthur, James; Arthur, John, died at Oxford, Miss.; Arthur, Joseph; Arthur, Benjamin; Arthur, Wm., killed at Vicksburg; Arthur Charles; Angland, W. J.; Allen, Joe; Baugh, J. A.; Baker, Felix; Barton, W. D., died in Hospital; Barnett, W. C.; Baker, Harry, killed at Vicksburg, Miss.; Bird, E. W.
Britton, ———, died at Camp Moore.

Chance, J. C.; Charles, John, died at Vicksburg; Coleman, Robert, killed at Shiloh; Carry, Thomas, died at hospital, Holly Springs, Miss.; Carry, A. A.; Chaney, James, First Sergeant at re-organization; Carry, G. W.; Carry, Mit.; Carry, Frank; Chandler, W. A. J.; Cook, J. C.; Cook, C. A.

Dubose, S. B., wounded at Vicksburg; Dyer, I. M.; Denton, J. F.; Dausby, N. B., killed at Vicksburg; Eldridge, ———, killed at Shiloh.

Formby, C. F.; Fortson, W. R.; Formbv, J. T.; Ford, J. F.; Fuller, Jesse.

Green, Solon, Gaskill, John; Hall, W. S.; Hall, E. T.; Hall, J. M.; Hall, C. C.; Hubble, J. G.; Heard, J. G., elected First Lieutenant at first organization; Hay, W. T.; Hay, Thomas; Heard, J. F.; Harper, Dick; Harper, A. L., elected Second Lieutenant at reorganization, promoted to First Lieutenant on death of Lieutenant Leake, promoted to captain on death of Captain Kilgore; Hilly, T. A.; Hall, Nat; Hamilton, J. D., elected Third Lieutenant at reorganization, promoted to Second Lieutenant on death of Leake, and to First Lieutenant on death of Kilgore; Hall, Waller, elected Third Lieutenant upon the death of Captain Kilgore; Hasty, R. L.; Hay, J. H., elected Third Lieutenant upon the death of Lieutenant Leake, promoted Second Lieutenant on death of Captain Kilgore.

Jarrell, Willis, Second Sergeant at surrender; Jordon, J. H.; Jackson, J. V.

Kilgore, B. S.; Kennebrew, Punk; Kinnebrew, Eugene; Kilgore, G. M., elected Second Lieutenant at first, elected Captain at re-organization, died of sickness returning home from Vicksburg; Kidd, W. H.; Kilgore, J. B.

Langston, Addison; Lay, L. R.; Lee, Pete, died at Alexandria, La.; Langston, Mirabeau; Leatherman, ———; Leake, M. C., elected 1st Lieutenant at re-organization—died June 5th, 1863, of wounds received at Vicksburg.

Maddox, J. M.; Murry, Burt; Murry, Len.; Meadows, T. D.; Murphy, C. T., killed at Port Gibson; Marsh, John; Marsh, Moses; McMahon, Nelson; McCasland, B. B.; McDonald, Sam., lost leg at Chickasaw Bluff; McDow, Nath.; Mayes, J. A.; Mayes, John, died in hospital, Miss.

Maddox, Wm. A., elected Captain, disabled by wounds received in battle at Shiloh.

Nelson, A. J.; Naremore, John; Nelson, James; Nolen, Wm.; died in hospital in Miss.; Nicholson, M. T.; Nicholson, Tatum, died in hospital.

Orr, J. T.; Owens, Thos., killed at Vicksburg, Oaks, W. F.

Potts, Thos.; Pecaw, John; Pennington, Thos. J.

Rivenbark, Jim; Roberts, Coleman, killed at Shiloh.

Reeder, Wm.

Sherard, J. W.; Sale, S. A.; Simmons, A. M.; Simmons, C.; Simmons, I. N.; Sharp, Thos.; Sanders, T.

B.; Steel, Wm., wounded at Shiloh; Sentell, S. M.; Stuart, J. A.; Short. Young, wounded at Vicksburg, 19th May; Short, G. W.

Taylor, J. P.; Tippet, J. A.; Taylor, J. M.; Thornton, J. W., killed at Vicksburg; Tabor, Tom.; Taylor, T. J.; Tatum, J. S.; Tate, R. E.; Thomas, James; Thompson, Ned; Tally, Monroe; Tally, James.

Veasy, Sam, died in hospital, Alexandria, La.

Watters, Sam; Watters, Mike; Williams, D. A.; Wafer, James, wounded several times; Wafer, Wm.; Wafer, Wilbur; Willis, John; White, Joe; Williams, Brew.

THE "CLAIBORNE VOLUNTEERS"—COMPANY "C,"
19TH LOUISIANA INFANTRY.

This company left the parish in September, 1861, for Camp Moore, where it was assigned with the "Clai-borne Grays"—Company "B"—to the 19th regiment.

We have been unable to procure any special account of the war experiences of this company, and are therefore compelled to refer the reader for its history to that of the "Grays" with whom we have been told the "volunteers" served, side by side, throughout the struggle. We regret especially that we cannot give a record of the individual casualties, and other interesting facts and reminiscences in connection with the roll of the company, but this omission is unavoidable, as we have not been able to find any one who could or would furnish them.

ROLL OF THE "CLAIBORNE VOLUNTEERS."

H. A. KENNEDY, Captain.

JOHN SPEARS, 1st Lieutenant.

S. A. HIGHTOWER, 2d Lieutenant.

J. W. O'BANNON, 3d Lieutenant.

Anderson, C. E.; Anderson, W. J.; Awbrey, Rufus;
Armstrong, J. S.; Alford, Columbus; Alford,
Wm.; Atkins, W. M.; Atkins, J. R.

Barrow, W. J.; Barrow, G. W.; Barrow, A. W.; Bar-
ker Gus; Butler, Jethro; Butler Jacob; Bixley,
George; Boyakin, F.; Barker, Wm.; Barber,
John; Barker, J. M.; Barber, E. W.; Brim, Sam;
Brister, John; Burley, George.

Conn, W. J.; Conn, G. W.; Carlisle, M.; Carlisle,
John; Culpepper, John; Culpepper, Stephen;
Carroll, John; Cothran, H. A.; Cook, B. C.; Chil-
ders, A. M.

Duke, John; Dunkin, R. A.; Davis,—
Everett, J. E.

Ferguson, G. W.; Ford, John; Ford, Joseph; Ford,
Frank; Foster, G. W.

Gunn, J. C. A.; Grey, James; Greer, J. M.; Greer, J. W;
Hightower, Cole; Hardin, Alvin; Hargis, Richard;
Henderson, James; Henderson, Thomas; Hender-
ons, John; Hamilton, Moore; Henderson, Daniel;
Hargis, Whale; Hargis, Bone; Hargis, Henry;
Hargis, Andrew; Hill, Wm.

Johnson, E.

King, B. F.; Key N. O.; Kothran, Hiram.

Linsey, Sam; Lovelace, M. H.; Lovelace, J. E.

More, J. F; Mangruom, T. J; McKnight, J. H; Mullins, W. A ; Mullins, John; Mullins, Tom; Milton, Tom; Murphy W. J; Martin, Norman ; Massey, Warren; McClung, John.

Nickless, W. H ; Nelson, G.W; Nelson Noel; Nelson, A.; Owens, C. W. C.; Owens, J. W; Owens, Dink; O'Bannon, W. H.; O'Bannon, T. W.

Parker, A. E.; Parker, W. M.

Roberson,——; Raiborne, Isaac; Rhodes, J. P.

Simmons, Martin; Spears, W. M.; Spears, J. W.; Spears, Joseph; Shipcock Allen.

Thompson, T. J.; Thompson, Sam; Thompson S. W; Thomason, Joshua; Talbert,——; Tubbs, John; Tatter, Ben,

Valentine, R.; Vines, D.; Vines, Jack,

West, Jack; West, John; Wise, J. N.; Wise, J.W.; Wise, Wilson, F; Wilson John; Woolly, Wamon; Williams Sam; Waller Columbus, Williams, W.; Wilkinson, ——, Wallace, E. S. Wasson, W. B.

COMPANY "E," 31st LOUISIANA INFANTRY.

BY CAPT. SHELVEY BAUCUM.

Our company, which was composed chiefly of men from the northern portion of the parish, left home about the 20th of April, 1862, and went to Monroe, La., where we joined the 31st regiment of infantry, which was organized at that place soon after our arrival. The country east of Monroe being overflowed, we remained at Monroe drilling, until in June, at which time we were ordered into the swamp near Vicksburg. Our camp was eight miles this side of Vicksburg, and was

the most disagreeable place men were ever compelled to stop in. Here sixty-five of the company had measles, and all the rest the fever. After a while we moved our camp to Tallulah. Our company was sent from here to New Carthage on the Mississippi for clothing and blankets, for Gen. Pike's Indians; and soon after, in August, we were sent to Millican's Bend for munition of war for the same command. The goods were sent up on a boat, and at night while we were there, a Yankee gun-boat hove along side of our boat and captured the whole thing. Only sixty-five of the regiment went on this expedition, and many of them were sick and without arms; hence the memorable skeedaddle from Millican's Bend. We returned to Tallulah, and after tramping around there until October, we went into camp near Delhi. About the last of October we came west of Trenton in the pine hills and staid there till in November, when we were ordered to Jackson, Miss. Remaining here two weeks, we were ordered northward to intercept some Federals, who were out from Memphis on a raid; we went as far as Water Valley, but found no Yanks. We were now ordered back to Vicksburg where, after two or three weeks rest, we received orders one night to cook two days rations, and to be ready to move by three o'clock A. M. We went to Jackson in box cars. We had to stand all the way, one company crowded into a box; and besides the boxes leaked badly and we all got wet, as it rained the whole day. As soon as we got to Jackson we were ordered back to Vicksburg, and ar-

rived there the next morning at three o'clock A. M.—twenty-four hours on our feet, and with wet clothing. Ten days from this time there had died forty men who went on that trip, of pneumonia and meningitis. About the 26th of December we marched out under Gen. S. D. Lee to Chickasaw Bayou, and took an active part in that battle. We were in line from Saturday until the Wednesday following, and had the satisfaction of giving the enemy a glorious thrashing, and of redeeming any character we might have lost in the Millican Bend affair. We now spent some time in camp drilling and occasionally doing picket duty, until the enemy got around to Port Gibson, when we were ordered to meet them, and on the 1st day of May, 1863, we had a stubborn fight with them near that place. We were forced to retreat back to Vicksburg, but remained here only a few days before we were ordered out on Big Black River to picket and to guard the crossings. The Yankees had gone in the direction of Jackson, and the next day after the Baker's Creek fight our troops were driven across Big Black, at the railroad crossing, in the direction of Vicksburg. Our regiment fell in with them and came into the city as rear guard, on the 17th or 18th of May, 1863. Now began the memorable siege of that place, which lasted until July 4th, when came its surrender, and with it the downfall of much of our hope. It would take a volume to detail the experiences of Company "E" during this trying time, but suffice it to say we were always on hand for duty, even when it came our turn to draw our share of mule beef.

After being paroled we returned to our homes where we remained until the first of January, 1864, at which time we were called into parol camp at Vienna, La. We remained here several weeks, and no exchange being effected, we were given furloughs, with orders to report every fifteen days. On the first of June we were ordered into parol camp at Minden, La. After staying here until the 14th of June, we moved to Shreveport; thence, after a short stay, to Alexandria, and went into camp at Pineville, where we remained till February 1865; thence moved up Red River to Cotilo Bayou and stayed there until Lee's surrender; then to Natchitoches, where we remained till in May; thence to Mansfield, at which place we were dismissed. We arrived home about the 23d of May, 1865

ROLL OF COMPANY "E," 31st LOUISIANA INFANTRY.

SHELBY BAUCUM, Captain.

D. W. GLADDEN, 1st Lieutenant.

JAS. M. CLEAVER, 2d Lieutenant.

THOMPSON SCOTT, 3d Lieutenant.

WM. F. WALLACE, 1st Sergeant, transferred to
15th Arkansas.

EDMUND SANDERS, 2d Sergeant.

WM. T. WILLIAMS, 3d Sergeant, discharged April,
4th, 1863, on account of physical disability.

JAS. J. HOWERTON, 4th Sergeant.

R. D. HIGHTOWER, 5th Sergeant.

CHAS. A. BALDWIN, 1st Corporal, died of consumption, February 16th, 1863, at home.

ELIJAH WHALEY, 2d Corporal, honorably discharged February 24th, 1863.

JAS. B. STEVENS, 3d Corporal.

JOHN L. SIMMS, 4th Corporal.

Adams, David A ; Anderson, Thos. W ; Alison, James. Bradley, Thos. J. ; Burk, A. W. ; Bugg, E. D. ; Braannon Wm. died November 21st, 1862, in hospital at Monroe, Louisiana, ; Bradley, James F. died in hospital at Monroe, September 1st, 1862, ; Baldwin, R. P. ; Blewer, E. S ; Burns, W. O. died July 13th, 1863 ; Bradley, W. H. ; died in hospital at Vicksburg, April 1st, 1863 ; Buford, Thos. J. ; Burk, Perry P. ; Burns, Wm. H. ; Buster, L. J ; Bancum, D. C.

Cole, J. M. died August 10th 1863, at home. ; Camp, F. M. ; Campbell, J. B. ; Cleaver, J. N. ; Colbert, John R. ; Culver, Charles A. ; died, August 1st 1863 ; Crawford, A. C. transferred to 19th Arkansas, March 30th, 1863 ; Camp, Joseph W. Clayton, A. S. transferred to 19th Arkansas, March 30th, 1863. ; Cunningham, B. F. ; Calhoun, J. D.

Dickson, Henry, died July 1863 at Vicksburg ;

Edison, J. W. ; Ethridge, John J. died, in the hospital at Monroe, November 21st, 1862 ; Edwards, L. T. Edwards, E. W.

Formby, John T. transferred to 17th Louisiana, March 3d, 1863, ; Fambrough, T. W. ; Ferguson, W. C. ;

Foster, W. G. died near Millican's Bend, August 21st, 1862; Flanigan, J. W. died at Vicksburg, in August, 1863; Fain, C. C.; Foster, Wm. J.; Farrar, Robert F.

Goodwin, E. H.; Green, J. C.; honorably discharged, March 18th, 1863; Green, T. J. died in trenches at Vicksburg, June 28th, 1863; Giddons, Mitchell, died at Monroe, September 18th, 1862; Griffith, W. J. died July 19th, in hospital at Vicksburg; Gladney, S. Y.; Green, John E.

Hannegin, John W. died at Monroe, in July 1863; Hale, Wm. H., died August 20th, at Monroe, in hospital; Hightower, Chas. L. killed on picket at Vicksburg, June 27th, 1863; Hines, W. W. died at Homer of measles, September 5th, 1862; Hines, Jas. H.; Harp, Thos. J.; Harrel, T. A. C. M. died in camp at Vicksburg, December 10th 1862; Hilburn, E. B.; Harris, Thos. O.; Hunt, Jas. S.; Hughes, H. J.; Holmes, A. died in hospital, at Vicksburg, April 15th, 1863; Heflin, F. W.; Hammock, E.; Hines, S. P.; Horthy, R. L.

James, J. J., honorably discharged, November 10th, 1862; Jaynes, S. P.; Johnson, W. H.; Johnson, W. N.; Johnson, S. A.

Kidd, E. T., transferred to 28th Louisiana, May 10th, 1862; Kelley, J. R.; Keener, J. H., discharged in November, 1862, having furnished substitute; Knox, H. R.; Knox, W. J., died in July 1863, at Monroe.

Lewis, E. W. ; Leach, J. S. ; Lowe, P. C. ; Leak, J. F.
Lee, Wm. ; Ludden, J. A.

Marshall, Joseph ; McHeeley, Henry, transferred to
12th Louisiana, February 12th, 1862 ; Moore, B.
A. died at home in Claiborne Parish, September
1st 1863 ; Morton, John C. ; Marshall, Hiram. ;
Minchew, A. C. died in camp, Jackson, Missis-
sippi, November 8th, 1862 ; Moore, J. D. ; Moore,
W. B. ; Morgan, A. G. ; Marshall, S., Morris, G.
A. died in hands of enemy, when or where
unknown ; Maddox, W. T., died August 23d,
1862, in the hands of the enemy ; Morgan, A.
S. died at home, May 3d, 1864 ; Morgan, H. T.
McDonald, W. S. ; McIntyre, M. died in hospital ;
November 4th, 1864, near Alexandria ; Mizell, J. D ;
Moody, J. F.

Owens, W. J., died near Monroe, July 1863.

Perry, W. O. ; Peninger, H. H.

Ricks, P. H. ; Reynolds, A. J. ; Reed, R. E. ; Reed, M.
V., killed by cannon shot, December 28th, 1863 ;
Renfrow, G. W. ; Rowe, E. H. ; Reed, Watson ;
Russell, L. E. ; Robertson, Thos.

Spencer, W. J. ; Smith, W. E. ; Smith, H. C., trans-
ferred to 19th Arkansas, April 15th, 1863 ; Simons,
J. H. ; Stripling, D. H. ; Smith, M. J. ; Sanders, C.
E., died in the enemy's hand August 24th, 1862 ;
Simms, J. T. ; Spencer, G. W. ; Stevens, F. M. ;
Strickland, J. R. ; Summersfield, John.

Theus, Samuel killed in battle, 22d, May, 1862 ;
Tuggle, W. J., died at home, August 6th, 1863 ;

Trammel, W. S. ; Thurmond, C. N. ; Tignor, J. T. ;
Townsend, E., discharged on Surgeon's certificate ;
Taylor, J. W. ; Townsend, J. E., died November,
5th, 1862 ; Terrell, J. W., died in July, 1883, at
Monroe ; Simmons, W. E., killed in battle, Vicks-
burg, May 23, 1863.

Waker, J. E. ; Watson, A. J. ; Wise, Mitchell ; Wise,
John ; Watters, A. J. discharged June 12th, 1862,
honorably ; Winn, H. C. killed in battle, June
23d, 1863 ; Whaley, G. W., ; Wise, G. W. ;
Wallace, J. M. ; Winfield, J. A. died July 3d, 1863.
in hospital at Vicksburg. ; Walker, W. H. H. trans-
ferred to cavalry, November 10th, 1864 ; Whaley,
J. M. ; Winfield, W. F. ; Walker, J. T. ; Whaley,
J. H., died September 15th. 1863, at home ;
Watson, J. C. ; Webb, R. J.

Yearwood, C. S.

SKETCH OF COMPANY "G," 25th LOUISIANA INFANTRY,
BY CAPTAIN W. J. LESLIE.

Company "G" of the 25th Regiment of Infantry was
mustered into service in the Spring of 1862, with
about 70 men and officers. Seaborne Aycock was elected
captain, and P. C. Harper, W. J. Leslie, and Tom
Brown, lieutenants. Third Lieutenant Brown soon
retired, and 1st Sergeant John Cook was elected to
fill his place. Soon after the organization of the regi-
ment we were sent to Corinth, Mississippi. This was
just after the battle of Shiloh. The first active ser-
vice we experienced was at Farmington. When
Corinth was evacuated we went with General Bragg

on his Kentucky raid, and were engaged in the fight at Perryville, and afterward in that of Murfreesboro. First Lieutenant Harper having resigned, W. J. Leslie became 1st lieutenant, and John Cook, 2d lieutenant. We were also in the campaign from Chattanooga, Tennessee, down to Atlanta and Jonesborough, Georgia. At the latter place we suffered terribly. Captain Aycock was killed here in a few feet of the enemies' works, and many other good men with him. W. J. Leslie now became captain, and John Cook 1st lieutenant. From Jonesborough we went with Hood in his famous Tennessee campaign. After the disastrous retreat from Nashville, we were sent to Spanish Fort near Mobile, Alabama, and there did our last fighting. When Spanish Fort succumbed and Mobile was evacuated, we fell back to Meridian, Mississippi, where we remained while our Lee and Johnston, one after the other, were defeated and compelled to surrender; and finally we were detailed to guard the quartermaster and commissary stores, until they could be taken possession of by the United States authorities; and thus, perhaps, were the last body of organized troops in the Confederate service east of the Mississippi River.

ROLL OF COMPANY "G," 25TH LA. INFANTRY.

SEABORNE AYCOCK, Captain; killed at Jonesborough, Ga.

P. C. HARPER, 1st Lieutenant.

W. J. LESLIE, 2d Lieutenant, promoted to Captain;

TOM BROWN, 3d Lieutenant.

Aycock, R. W., captured April 8, 1865; Allen, Josh.
Brister, W. I.; Birch, J. E., Corporal; Bush, J. E.;
Brown, A. H.; Brown, Charley; Baker, Leroy,
killed at Spanish Fort; Butler, —; Bearden,
Pink.

Cook, Neal, wounded at Spanish Fort; Cook, Neal;
Cook, John, 1st Sergeant, afterward 3d, 2d, and
1st Lieutenant; Cameron, Abe; Cameron, Elijah;
Carpenter, Americus; Christian, Thomas; Car-
lisle, John; Calhoun, Joe F.; Corry, G. W., Ser-
geant.

Dutton, Enoch.

Fuller, Jack, Sergeant; Ford, John, Sergeant.

Griffin, —, wounded at Perryville; Greer, —,
wounded at Nashville; Green, Henry, lost; Greer,
Manuel, wounded at Nashville; Glover, John,
Sergeant.

Hay, D. W.; Heard, Joseph; Hargrove, W. C.; Hester,
Elias; Heard, Charley, Sergeant.

Johnson, Dale; Johnson, —.

Kilgore, W. C.; Kilgore, Wm., captured June 1864,
near Atlanta.

Lee, F. B.; Lee, Haun.; Landingham, Wm.

Mullins, J. D.; Mullins, Wm.; Massie, George; Massie,
—; Malone, Anthony; Malone, Mat.; Muse, An-
drew, wounded at Perryville; Morton, James;
Mullins, Joe.

Nolen, S. A., wounded Nov. 1863; Nolen, J.; Nolen,
Wm.

Oxford, Jerry.

Pilgrene, T. L.; Pilgrene, —; Phillips. Seaborne:
Pennington, T. H.

Russ, Joe.

Thomas, Samps.

Wilson, James; Williams, J.; Wood, Nick; Willis,
J. W.

Green, O. E., killed at Spanish Fort.

The foregoing embraces all the names and particulars that have been furnished us. The roll is evidently imperfect, which we regret.

SKETCH OF COMPANY "F" 5th LA. CAVALRY.

BY LIEUTENANT J. R. MONK.

In the early summer of 1862, R. L. Capers raised and equipped in Claiborne Parish, a company of mounted men to be used in the Confederate service as Partisan Rangers; and in July of that year, it was mustered into service at Monroe, La. The enlistment was for three years or the war, each soldier furnishing at his own expense his horse, arms, military accoutrements, etc. The company was armed with double-barrelled shot guns, and with such side arms as each man had or was able to procure. When the company was mustered into service, an appraisement of each man's property was made, ostensibly for the purpose of making the government responsible for the loss or destruction of private property in public service, but really and in effect, turning the whole outfit, man, horse and arms over to the Confederacy.

The company kept itself mounted, clothed and armed during the entire term of its service; and we might

here remark appropriately, that if its service was not effective, its maintenance cost the government but little.

At its original organization, the company was officered by R. L. Capers, Captain; John S. Young, N. J. Scott, G. A. Gordon, Lieutenants; and McNouel Brown, Orderly Sergeant.

Capers and Young were to some extent experienced officers, both having served a short time in Virginia; Capers as Captain in the 9th Louisiana Infantry, and Young as Lieutenant in the 2d Louisiana Infantry; the rest, officers and men, were "raw recruits." In August, 1862, the company with five others, was organized into a battalion of Partisan Rangers, with Sam Chambliss as Lieutenant Colonel, and R. L. Capers as Major. John S. Young becoming Captain of the company by promotion. The company's position in the battalion was that of "F," the junior company, by reason of its then captain's being the junior captain, and it was ever after known as company "F."

Young served as captain longer than any other the company had, and almost all the duty it ever performed of any consequence, was under his administration. He was a brave, competent and efficient officer, respected and loved by the men he commanded. The existence of the company as partisan rangers, was of short duration, it being soon put into the regular cavalry service. Other companies were added, and the battalion was formed into a regiment, with R. L. Capers as Colonel; John S. Young was subsequently

elected Major, and was Lieutenant Colonel at the close of the war.

The military operations of this company were confined almost wholly to the swamp country between the Onachita and Mississippi rivers. Upon the inauguration of General Bank's campaign of Red River, it operated under the command of General Liddell on the east bank of the river, doing some good service. Such was the arduous duty performed by this company during this campaign, that out of one hundred and thirteen men, and four commissioned officers, it had in line when it left Harrisonburg for Red River, it had left only one commissioned officer (Lieutenant G. A. Gordon) and about thirty non-commissioned officers and privates when at the close of the campaign it arrived at Monroe, to rest and recuperate, all the rest having succumbed to hardships, privations, and the missiles of the enemy.

This company was in several skirmishes, but in no regular battle or general engagement, therefore in sketching its history we have little food for our pen, save to detail the monotonous routine of camp life. It certainly had its share of suffering, hardships and privations incident to a soldier's life; after marching day and night through heat, rain and cold, stopping only when the imperious command of nature demanded rest; lying down supperless upon the wet earth for a bed, with saddles for pillows and wet blankets for covering, sleeping as sweetly as if upon a bed of roses, and dreaming of feasting upon viands prepared by the

fair hands of loved ones at home. Such is the life of the soldier and the pen of the historian has not failed to record it.

The history of Company "F" furnishes us with no exceptional instances of individual prowess, no hair-breadth escapes or desperate adventures that would make the actors famous, or furnish pabulum for the writers of romance; and, kind reader, if such should crop unawares into this dull sketch, attribute it rather to a morbid desire to please than to the fanciful creations of a romantic imagination. Were we not trying to write veritable history, we might for the embellishment of our work and the delectation of the reader, interpolate him a little episode. We might grandiloquently tell of a little escapade occurring at a time ere drill and discipline (the school of the soldier) had made of this company an effective body of troops. We might relate how, in his dire extremity, every man following that fundamental law of nature—self-preservation—adopted and put into execution the motto of the great Napoleon at Waterloo, *Sauve qui peut*. But however much our inclination might lead us in that direction, we forbear, for such was not our original purpose. It's a history we are attempting to write, not a romance; wherefore, kind reader, I pray your indulgence, for my theme does not arouse the dormant faculties of my imagination, nor does it set my pen scribbling *currente, calamo*, the daring deeds of fictitious heroes. Better an unvarnished recital of plain facts, than a garrish display of words detailing the

exploits of heroes existing only in the imagination of the author. If my piece is dull and uninteresting it has this good quality—it is true. A few more facts and the curtain will drop. We have no desire whatever, to appear in print, and have written this at the request of, and only to accommodate, the author. We have written with no data, save those furnished by memory, and have tried to be just. We entertain none but the kindest feelings towards our former comrades in arms—therefore, “nothing extenuate nor ought set down in malice.” We will now close this article by giving the names of the officers of the company at the close of the war: G. A. Gordon, Captain; A. W. Palmer, J. H. Carr and J. R. Monk, Lieutenants; McNouel Brown was orderly during the entire war. We have purposely abstained from going into detail, hence many incidents, of interest only to the actors, have been omitted.

ROLL OF COMPANY “F” 5TH LOUISIANA CAVALRY.
R. L. Capers, Captain—afterward major of battalion,
and then Colonel of 5th Regiment.

John S. Young, 1st Lieutenant—promoted to Captain,
then elected major of 5th Regiment, and afterward
promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

N. J. Scott, 2d Lieutenant.

G. A. Gordon, 2d Lieutenant, Jr.—became Captain by
promotion

McNouel Brown, Orderly Sergeant.

Allen, T. U.; Armour, J.; Anglin, B.; Aycock, J.; At-
kins M. F.; Adkins, F. M.

Brown, Sid; Bellar, M. C.; Bennett, J. Blankinship, J.;
Burkley, J. Y.; Beene, R.; Beene, W.; Beene, L.;
Beech, J. W.; Brooks, T. W.; Brooks, H. G.,
Brown, W. P.

Crow, G.; Coleman, W. G.; Covington, W.; Cleveland,
W. G.; Crompt, J. H.; Crompt, L.; Carr, J. H., be-
came 2d Lieutenant of the company.

Dunn, J. M.; Demoss, G.; Demoss, E.; Demoss, H. C.;
Demoss, L.; Deloach, W. W.; Douglas, J. M.;
Demetz, Peter; Dyer, L. F.

Edwards, L. F.

Foster, J.; Foster, Ike; Frost, W.; Franks, H.; Franks,
J.; Franks, F.; Festervan, R.; Festervan, B.;
Gibson, J. M.; Grider, H. C.; Gray, E.; Goolsby, P.;
Goodson, M.

Hamilton, T. P.; Hollingsworth, L.; Hall, G.; Hender-
son, W.; Hines, E. D.; Heard, Seabe; Heard, J.;
Heard, P.; Harrison, T., Hammons, E.; Hightower,
Tom.; Hightower, R. R.

Jones, T. J.; Jones, G. L.

Kendrick, T.; King, J. W.; Kendrick, J.; Kirby, L.;
Kirkpatrick, T. J.

Lowe, N.; Ludham, C.; Ludham, J.; Lyons, F.

Mendenhall, T.; Mays, J. H.; Mays, M.; Mays, H.;
Maddox, J.; Mercer, W.; Martin, J.; McCleish, J.;
Marshall, Curt; Mundane, J. H.; Mayfield, G.;
Mayfield, J.; Monk, J. R., became 2d Junior Lieu-
tenant; Massey, A.; Maddox, W.; Mayfield, L.

Nelson, G. W.

Odum, W.; Odum, H. P.; Odum, M. Odum, A.; Oaks, R.; Oak, Isaac.

Pair, J. W.; Payne, J. H.; Palmer, A. W., became 1st Lieutenant.

Ragsdale, W.; Reed, J.; Railey, H. C.

Shaw, George; Short, J.; Sherril, A. H.; Simms, Isham; Sausing, Z.; Strickland, E.

Taylor, J. H. M.; Taylor, J. M.; Tuggle, J. H.; Terrentine, Sam; Tippet, Jim; Tippet, John; Thomas, B. F.; Traylor, G. D.; Traylor, H.; Thighpen, B.

Waller, T.; Warmock, A. M.; White, M.; Witter, J. A.; Wiley, W. G.; Willis, T. N.; Wilson, J.

No particulars furnished with the above roll.

THE MINDEN RANGERS.

This was a cavalry company, and left the parish for the seat of war about the 1st of April, 1862. It was first sent to Corinth, Miss., where it served a short time under Gens. Beauregard and Vandorn. It was in the Tennessee Army during the greater part of the term of its service, and was in many different engagements, but fortunately lost but few men in action. It saw service in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and finally surrendered under Gen. Forest at Gainesville, Ala.

ROLL OF THE MINDEN RANGERS.

F. D. WIMBERLY, Captain.

W. C. PATILLO, 1st Lieutenant.

A. G. HARPER, 2d Lieutenant.

JOE HAMILTON, 3d Lieutenant.

J. Y. WEBBS, 1st Sergeant—Captain on re-organization.

Blackman, Jeff; Brantly, Dock; Bates, P. P.; Butler, Oliver; Bennett, John; Bennett, S. W.

Culpepper, S. W.; Crocker, Wm.; Canfield, J. M.; Cahil, —; Carter, J. J., Third Lieutenant on re-organization; Clinton, Jack; Canfield, D. C.

Dunn, John; Duford, Towfield; Darby, Stephen; Darby, James; Davis, W. A.

Evans, R. G.; Eastland, Wm.

Fay, E. H.; Fuller, Wm.; Fuller, B. F.; Fuller, J. D.; Geren, T. J.; Grounds, J. G.; Gossway, T. J.; Gray, Sim; Garrett, John H.; Garion, Thomas; Gallagher, Scott.

Hart, R. J.; Henry, J. F.; Hardy, J. B.; Hodges, E. W.; Hudson, J. W.; Henry, J. B.; Hartzog, Joe.

Jones, Wm.; Jones, Alfred.

Killer, J. M.;

Leary, Jim.; Loy, Jno. C.; Lancaster, Jules; Laseur, J. L. A.; Lackey, John.

Midchew, A. C.; Meeks, Nacy; McRee, J. J.;

• McKemie, J. G.; Murphy, Ninos; McArthur, —; McClendon, A.; Monzingo, G. W.; Monzingo, S. A.; Monzingo, J. J.; Monzingo, Giles; Monzingo, Lewis; Monzingo, White; Monzingo, Thomas; Monzingo, Abe; Martin, Nathaniel, M. 2d. Lieutenant, reorganization; Morrow, Peter; Mayberry, Wm.; Mullins, Dan; Martin, Alex; Morrow, P. Y. Nolen, A.; Newsome, A. W.; Nelson, Tom; Nelson, Buck; Noland, Avery; Noal, T. B.

Oliver, A. B.

Pierce, Murphy; Peters, Lewis.

Randle, Robert; Randle, Thomas; Ratcliff, Isaiah;
Ratcliff, Richard.

Simmons, J. H.—Orderly sergeant in reorganization;
Stewart, J. J.; Stanley, Thos.; Smith, Milton;
Smith, Wm.; Simmons, Dr.

Thompson, R. E.; Taylor, J. D. H.; Taylor, D. M.;
Taylor, N. B.

Ward, H. H.; Watkins, L. B.—1st. Lieutenant at re-
organization; Wafer, Cicero; White, Irby; Wim-
berly, J. C.

COMPANY "D," 28TH LA. INFANTRY, BY G. T. WINN.

This company left Homer on the 10th of May, 1862, with about 120 men, and on the 15th joined Colonel Gray's 28th Regiment at Monroe, La. Soon after its organization, the regiment moved up near Vienna, where we spent some two months in drilling. From here we were sent to the Mississippi River, near Millican's Bend; thence down on the Teche, where we had frequent skirmishes with the enemy; thence up the Teche to Franklin, at which place we had a sharp conflict with the Federals, to hold them in check until our army and artillery could make their exit through the narrow passage at this point. In this engagement our regiment had to contend against fearful odds, and it was said that we left on the field, killed and wounded, a number of the enemy equal to the entire force we carried into the fight. Here we lost a few men, killed and taken prisoners. Sergeant J. L.

Tippet, a noble soldier, was among the killed. From this time on, we had frequent skirmishes along the Teche, Atchafalaya, Bœuf, and Red rivers. In an engagement on Yellow Bayou, we lost Lieut. James Simmons, a good and brave officer. Thus we continued alternately advancing and retreating, until the engagements at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. In these conflicts Claiborne lost some valuable men; besides, many were wounded, among whom were Lieut. T. J. Grimmett and A. B. Boykin. While some distinguished themselves by noble deeds of valor, we may say that every one acted well his part.

Among those who sickened and died, we recall the following: J. E. Smith, John Honeycutt, William Honeycutt, Alexander Johnson, James Harris, James Tippet, M. O. Shaw, Green Shaw, S. Mitchell, David Christian, William Pennington, and Joseph Craker. After the lapse of more than twenty years, it is impossible for me to give a satisfactory sketch of the history of this company, having to rely solely upon memory, and we therefore beg the indulgence of the reader for any mistakes or omissions. None have been wilfully neglected.

ROLL OF COMPANY "D," 28TH REGIMENT INFANTRY.

M. O. CHEATHAM, Captain.

JAS. SIMMONS, 1st Lieutenant.

— WARSON, 2d Lieutenant.

J. THOMPSON, 3d Lieutenant.

Allen, Y. D. Jr.; Autry, John.

Boykin, A. B.; Bailey, J. G.; Bird, G. W.; Bass, Dr.;
Bennett, J.; Bennett, Jerome; Butler, R.; Butts,
Wm.; Brown, W. F.

Camp, J. M. W.; Cracker, Wm.; Christian, David;
Cooksey, Robert.

Deloach, Wm.; Dickson, Frank; Duggins,——.

Edmunds, W. E.

Grimmet, T. J.; Greer, Thomas; Gallman, Chappell.

Hines, Bennett; Honeycutt, Wm.; Honeycutt, John;
Hudgins, B.; Hood, Strickland; Hood, Wm.;
Hood, Fred.; Holland, M.; Hudgins, A.

Jarvis, A. F.; Johnson, H.; Johnson, John; Jinks, B. R.
Kinnebrew, Eugene; Kinnebrew, P.

Monk, Merrill; Monk, P.; Mullins, D.; Mullins, O.;
Mitchell, Thos.; McKinzy, T. A.; McKinly, H. B.;
Moreland, J. B.; Massey, George; Milliner, Jasper;
Moore, Wm.; Meadow, T. D.; Milliner, H.; Mang-
ham, T. J.

Nolan, John.

Pennington, Wm.; Patton, Wm.; Peterson, Davis;
Peterson, N.; Palmer, J. A.; Pattillo, A. B.; Pink-
nark, Wm.

Rainey, G. M. C.

Shaw, M. O.; Shaw, Green; Smith, W. J.; Smith,
John; Smith, J. J.; Simmons, Tobe; Speers, S.
G.; Spivy, S. G.; Shockley, L. M.; Shepherd, Jef-
frey; Shepherd, Wm.; Sith, J. N.

Tippet, A. J.; Tippet, James; Thornton, C. F.

Winn, G. T.; Winn, R. A. N.; Wallace, Colvin; Win-
sett, John, A.; Walker, W. A. J.; Williams, S. O.;

Womberly, J.; Whitehead, Wm.; Whitehead, Marion; Whitehead, H.; Warson, M.; Wason, Jeff; Wilson, Lee.

Young, Chas.; Young, N.

List of men from Claiborne who volunteered in

"ARCADIA INVINCIBLES"

of Bienville Parish, commanded by Captain T. C. Standifer, which company formed a part of Colonel T.M.Scott's 12th Regiment of Infantry.

John D. Givens, 3d Lieut—died at Columbus, Ky.

E. R. Cook,

J. W. Tippet,

E. H. Tippet,

John Morris, killed in battle,

John Aitken, died from sickness,

Thos. Tabor,

T. C. Ware, died from sickness,

W. B. Humphrey,

Frank Wilkinson,

Geo. Dye,

Madison Perritt,

Henry Perritt,

Willis Saunders,

Thomas Howard,

Brown Colvin, killed at Peach Tree Creek,

John Mask, died,

Wm. Mask, died from sickness,

Alonzo Caskey, died from sickness,

Newt. Miller, died from sickness

Frank Parker, died from sickness,

Wm. Pate, died from sickness,
Edward Funderburk,
David Grey, killed at Atlanta, Georgia,
John Allen,
John Minton,
J. W. Dorman,
Rufus McLeroy,
Lawrence Knowles,
Alex. Knowles,
Wesley Smith,
Wm. Murphy,
Wm. Tippet,
Benton Petty, killed at Corinth, Miss.,
S. A. Craighead,
L. A. Craighead,
Jim Nicholson,
R. S. Taylor, wounded, captured at Vicksburg, Miss.

We close this chapter with the following apt and beautiful extract from O'Hara's "Bivouac of the Dead":

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.

No rumor of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind ;
No troubled thought at midnight haunts
Of loved ones left behind ;
No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms.
No braying horn or screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.

Their shivered swords are red with rust,
Their plumed heads are bowed,
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust,
Is now their martial shroud ;
And plenteous funeral tears have washed
The red stains from each brow ;
And the proud forms, by battle gashed,
Are free from anguish now.

The neighing troop, the flashing blade,
The bugle's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreadful cannonade,
The din and shout are past ;
Nor war's wild note, nor glory's peal
Shall thrill with fierce delight
Those breasts that never more may feel
The rapture of the fight.



CHAPTER XIV.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The war over, the people of the South were called to pass through a more trying ordeal than the war itself. Reconstruction was yet to be endured. The war closed in the early summer of 1865. The people were then given a kind of military government. Wells was Governor of this State, and he appointed John D. Watkins, of Minden, Judge of the District of which Claiborne formed a part, and A. B. George, of the same place, District Attorney. The parish officers appointed were, M. Callahan, Clerk of the District Court; John Kimball, Sheriff, and John R. Ramsey, Recorder.

In 1866 Congress took action looking to the re-admission of the Southern States into the Union. The ratification of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Federal Constitution was made a condition precedent to the restoration of the Union. The white people of this section were almost solidly opposed to these amendments. There were a few far-seeing men, however, who advocated accepting the amendments, and returning to the Union. Prominent among this number, in this section, was Col. J. W. McDonald, of Minden, one of the ablest and purest men that has ever served this parish in any public capacity. He was at the time misunderstood and misrepresented, and bitter prejudices excited against him. He has

lived, however, to see himself vindicated; the people have since endorsed his views. The amendments were at length adopted, and in 1868 a Constitutional Convention was called and an election ordered the same year, to be held under Federal supervision. The majority of the white people manifested very little interest in this election. The recently emancipated slaves were fully invested with the right of suffrage, and the whites were only permitted to exercise the right under conditions which they regarded as odious and degrading. Under such conditions it was not strange that the Convention which was soon to assemble was composed largely of negroes, and white carpet-baggers, and political adventurers from the North. The better class was virtually disfranchised, and the property and honor of the State had but few representatives in the Convention of 1868. W. Jasper Blackburn and Bill Meadows, (colored,) were elected delegates from Claiborne to this Convention.

A constitution was framed and submitted to the people and State officers, and a Legislature was to be chosen at the same election. The opposition of the better element of the State was so pronounced against the proposed constitution that the Democratic party refused to place a ticket in the field. A few conservative men brought out a ticket to contest the field with the Republicans, and Judge Taliaferro was placed at the head of the ticket. Col. McDonald, of Minden, was on this ticket. The Republicans were successful; the constitution was adopted, and the ticket headed

by H. C. Warmoth and made up of political adventurers elected. Dr. W. W. Bennett and C. B. Pratt were elected to the Legislature from Claiborne, S. D. Spann, Clerk District Court, and R. T. Dawson, Sheriff, N. J. Scott, Parish Judge. J. L. Lewis was counted in as district judge, but was subsequently removed, and J. C. Egan appointed. The white element had not yet since the close of the war taken a very active part in politics. But when they saw Warmoth and his crew in control of the State they began to open their eyes. It was seen that the policy of non-action would not do, and it was resolved to rescue the State from the control of the corrupt and venal band which had converted the temple of liberty into a pandemonium. That this was accomplished at the cost to some extent of violence and bloodshed, need not be wondered at. When reviewed now at a period far enough removed for the reason to be sober, and the judgment calm, it can not be said that forbearance was not among the virtues of that time. Now it can be seen that under the peculiarly trying surroundings matters might have been worse. It must be remembered that the race which wherever it had gained a foothold in all history had ruled, was here placed under a race that not only was recently in bondage, but that was totally unused to self-government. This ignorant race was led and incited to hostility against the white race by designing and unscrupulous white men. The colored race had to undergo an education of experience. They have learned long since that their best friends were to

be found in their former masters, and were now willing to vote with them. In this parish the troubles between the races were not serious or the feeling so bitter as in many other localities. Upon the whole, it must be said that the two races have adjusted themselves to new conditions with as little of commotion as could have been reasonably expected.

In 1870 J. C. Meadows and J. S. Killen were elected to the legislature; W. F. Aycock, Sheriff John S. Poug, Parish Judge. In 1872 the contest for State offices was an exceedingly warm one, and attended with great interest. At first there were two State tickets out both claiming to represent the best element of the State; one was headed by Col. D. B. Penn; Col. John S. Young, of Claiborne, as on this ticket. This was known as the "Liberal Ticket." The straight-out Democratic ticket was headed by John McEnery. For a time the feeling between the adherents of these two tickets in this section was quite warm. Harmony was soon restored by the formation of the Fusion ticket, at the head of which was John McEnery, and D. B. Penn for the second place. The Republican ticket was led by Kellogg; Wm. F. Moreland and Thos. Price were chosen for the Legislature at this election; J. A. Richardson, Clerk of the District Court; W. F. Aycock, Sheriff; J. R. Ramsey, Recorder, N. J. Scott, Parish Judge, and Robert P. Vaughn, District Attorney. W. Jasper Blackburn was the Republican candidate for the Senate, and J. W. McDonald, the Democratic candidate. Both can-

didates were counted in by their respective parties, and took seats, one in the Kellogg and the other in the McEnergy Legislature. The exciting contest which took place in New Orleans during the winter of 1872-73 is still remembered by most of our people. There were two governments, or at least two attempts to set up State governments. A compromise was proposed on which public opinion was considerably divided. This was to concede the Governorship to Kellogg, and give the Legislature to the Democrats. This measure was favored by Senator McDonald and the Representatives from this parish. It was known that the Federal authorities would sustain the Kellogg Government, and the compromise was thought the best the Democrats could hope to do. The more determined and headstrong of the Democrats, however, refused the terms of compromise, and continued in a course which finally resulted in the clash of arms and the shedding of blood in the streets of New Orleans. The Democrats gained possession of the State House, and would have sustained themselves and gained control of the State Government, but Grant brought the bayonet of the United States Government to bear, and the McEnergy forces were powerless. The Representatives from this parish, Moreland and Price, were conceded elected by the Kellogg Legislature, and when they concluded that the attempt to sustain the McEnergy Government was useless, and also found that the seats of those members that were conceded elected by the Republicans, but that were acting with the

McEnery Government would be filled by their Republican opponents, they took their seats in the Kellogg Legislature. For this they were censured at the time by a considerable portion of their constituency; but later when it was seen by all that the McEnery Government could under no circumstance have been sustained while Grant was President, the feeling against them died out, and they have both since been elected to office by the people of Claiborne. Senator McDonald also favored the compromise, and finding his views antagonistic to those of many of his people he concluded that under the circumstances he could accomplish nothing for them, and resigned. A. B. George was also a Senator during these trying days. He adhered to the McEnery Government till the last and only when it was seen that further effort to sustain McEnery and his Government was utterly useless, did he go into the Kellogg Senate, and then he refused to receive any pay for the time he had remained in the McEnery Senate.

In 1874 this parish sent Gen. John Young and H. C. Mitchell to the Legislature. Nelson J. Scott was re-elected parish judge, and W. F. Aycock Sheriff. This year the Democratic party gained control of the lower branch of the State Legislature. There was a kind of compromise entered into by which the Democrats effected this. The members from this parish participated in this compromise, and for so doing were condemned by some of their constituents, but Young was

returned to the Legislature, and Mitchell promoted to the Senate.

In 1876 the State Democratic Convention nominated Gen. Francis T. Nicholls, one of the purest and most incorruptible men in the State, for Governor. He was opposed by S. B. Packard. From this parish Gen. John Young and Col. J. J. Duke were elected to the Legislature. Drew Ferguson, Clerk of the District Court, H. W. Kirkpatrick, Sheriff, N. J. Scott, Parish Judge, J. R. Ramsey, Recorder, H. C. Mitchell, of this parish, was elected a Senator. E. M. Graham, of Lincoln, was at this election chosen District Judge, and Allen Barksdale, of the same parish, District Attorney. This was an exciting campaign for local officers, and if space permitted many amusing incidents might be given which would be of interest to the reader.

Nicholls, with the entire Democratic State ticket, was elected, but Packard counted himself in hoping to be sustained by the Federal government, as Kellogg had been in 1872. But this time the Republican party had more on its hands. The Democrats had carried the national election and chosen Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, president. For months there was commotion and excitement, not only at Washington and New Orleans, but throughout the land. At last by the "Crime of the Century," the Republican president was seated, but by a judicious and wise course Gov. Nicholls sustained his government, and Packard and his crew being abandoned by the fraudulent Hayes, who was defeated at the ballot box, but made presi-

dent by an eight to seven commission concocted to cheat the people, soon went to the wall. The Democrats now found themselves in full control of Louisiana. The carpet-baggers and Radical rule were a thing of the past.

The Democrats being in control now began to divide among themselves as to questions of state policy. There was a demand from many quarters for a Constitutional Convention—many insisting that the political welfare of the State was inseparably connected with this measure; others thought this agitation premature and insisted that the better plan was to amend the old constitution, and wait till the political status of the State was more securely settled and the State better able to incur the expense before calling a Constitutional Convention. There were still others who thought that they discerned as the ulterior purpose of the leaders of the movement for a Constitutional Convention, a desire to cut short the term of Gov. Nicholls. Gov. Nicholls boldly announced in his speech accepting the nomination that if elected he would be the Governor of the whole people, and faithfully and impartially administer the laws. This was thought by some a fine thing for a candidate to say on the threshold of a campaign, but a bad thing when practically enforced. Gov. Nicholls proposed to practically enforce what he had said when he became a candidate, and for this reason his administration was unpopular with certain classes. Between these different elements the proposition of calling a convention was discussed.

The sentiment of the public largely preponderated in favor of the convention, and the Legislature of 1878 was elected largely on this issue. This year Claiborne elected W. C. Martin and J. H. Hay to the Legislature, H. W. Kirkpatrick, Sheriff, John A. Richardson, Parish Judge, Judge J. D. Watkins, of Minden, and Jno. C. Vance, of Bossier, were this year elected Senators from this Senatorial District. This was a spirited campaign throughout the parish for local officers, but space forbids details. This Legislature called a Constitutional Convention, and an election was held the following year to choose delegates. Wm. F. Moreland and Rev. J. T. Davidson were elected delegates from this parish. The Convention assembled, and the people throughout the State were agitated over the State debt question. The Radical administration had left the State heavily involved, and many of the people believed that the bonds issued by the Kellogg government were fraudulent, and were in favor of repudiation. The Convention was divided, and finally, as a compromise measure, adopted the debt ordinance, with the Constitution, Howard's Lottery and all were submitted to the people in the December following. The State and local offices became vacant by the effect of the new Constitution, and these were also to be chosen at this election. The contest for the local offices was warm in this parish, and resulted as follows: A. L. Atkins and John B. Philipps were elected to the Legislature; Drew Ferguson, Clerk of the District Court; J. H. M. Taylor Sheriff; Judge J. D.

Watkins, of Webster, and John C. Vance, of Bossier, were the candidates elected from this district to the Senate. Judge E. M. Graham and Allen Barksdale were re-elected Judge and District Attorney. L. A. Wiltz was elected Governor of the State, but died shortly after his election, and was succeeded by Lieutenant S. D. McEnery. There was now no State election till 1884, and the people were comparatively little disturbed by political discussions, for a time. In 1883 there was a very spirited campaign for the nomination of governor. The war of the factions was bitter. This parish was strongly opposed to McEnery, and sent a solid Nicholls delegation to the Democratic State Convention. McEnery was, however, nominated, and in 1884 elected. The contest for the local offices in 1884, was lively and interesting. This parish being so certainly and nearly solidly Democratic, the custom of making nominations for local officers had been abandoned for some years. There is an open field, and every one ambitious to serve the dear people, is permitted to test his strength at the polls. As the result there was nearly a dozen candidates for the office of Sheriff in 1884, and in the election of 1879 the number was almost as large. The candidates for the other offices were also numerous, and each one of course did his utmost to win. Such a campaign can better be imagined than described. The result of the election of April, 1884, was as follows: Thos. Price and W. J. Leslie, elected to the Legislature; Drew Ferguson, Clerk of

the District Court; J. H. M. Taylor, Sheriff; J. C. Vance of Basin, and J. C. Brice of Bienville, were elected Senators from this Senatorial District; John Young of Claiborne of this judicial district, and Enos H. McClendon, of the same parish, District Attorney. Since 1876, when the Democratic party as the representative of the property and intelligence of the State gained control of the State Government, there has at no time in this section been any very bitter political feeling. There has been, of course, differences of opinion, which have been warmly discussed, but the two races have lived at peace. The population has been quietly and orderly pursuing the vocation of tilling the soil, and those that are economical and industrious are making a living, and some are accumulating property. The race is making some progress in education. The colored people are given an equal showing in the distribution of the public school funds, and many of them are learning to read and write, some of them are gaining a knowledge of elementary arithmetic and other branches of a common school education.

Since the war the white population has made considerable progress. There is no parish in the State where better school and church facilities are offered, there being few families that are out of convenient reach to either, and a more industrious, intelligent, and law abiding people would be hard to find.

A number of years ago there sprung up a new political party in this parish. It was known as the Green-

back party, and afterwards as the Greenback Labor party. R. P. Webb was the principal leader of this party. It was never strong enough to elect any of its candidates, or to be a formidable factor in the politics of the parish.

A portion of territory of Claiborne has twice since the war been taken for the formation of other Parishes. In 1874 a portion of the southeastern portion of the parish was taken off to help form Lincoln parish, and in 1877 a portion of the western portion was sliced off for the benefit of Webster Parish. There is still enough territory left, but the people would with reason object to any further such inroads.

The emigrant in search of a home can find no place in the South where superior advantages are offered.



CHAPTER XV.

IRON ORE.

Rich deposits of iron ore have recently been discovered in the parish.

LOUISIANA IRON.

From the N. O. Times-Democrat.

One of the big results of the Exposition, as far as Louisiana is concerned, is the discovery of its unexpected mineral wealth. There has been for years a current belief that the State was devoid of any important minerals; that, as nearly all of it was of alluvial formation, there was little probability of any metals being found in sufficient abundance to make mining profitable. Fortunately, however, there were some men not entirely of that way of thinking, and who believed that the only reason why minerals had not been discovered and worked in Louisiana was because no intelligent search had been made for them. It was resolved that whatever geological formations of value the State possessed should be made known to the world through the Exposition. There was but little time given for a proper investigation of this subject, but Mr. Enderlee was selected to make a tour of the State for the purpose of collecting such geological and mineral specimens as were available. He made a collection, a very fine one, considering the fact that no

geological survey had ever been made of the State, and that the people had never become interested in minerals, having been taught to believe that there was nothing under the ground in Louisiana worth looking for.

The Louisiana exhibits at the Exposition have unearthed and made public a discovery which will have an important effect on the future of North Louisiana, which may completely change the destiny of that section, and which certainly will mark an era in the industrial growth and development of the South. This is the discovery of rich and valuable iron deposits in various portions of North Louisiana, ores of wonderful purity and freedom from other metals, valuable in the per centage of iron they contain, so that they can be cheaply worked, and in a favorable situation for the transportation of the iron to market. When, further, the fact is considered that iron is very scarce in the region west of the Mississippi and south of Arkansas, this new discovery holds out the promise that Louisiana may become for the Southwest what Pennsylvania is for the East and Alabama for the Southern Atlantic States.

The exact amount of iron and the location of all the ore are as yet not fully known. We know, however, that there are large bodies of it in Claiborne, Bossier, Bienville, Webster, DeSoto, and Sabine Parishes, and presumed in other portions of North Louisiana. The quantity and quality of the ore are no longer doubtful

figures. The fields in Claiborne, Bossier, Webster, and Bienville have been examined by skilled mineralogists for the purpose of finding whether they were sufficiently rich to warrant working them, and the answer, after a thorough investigation, has been most favorable. The ore, which is nearly pure hematite, has been brought to New Orleans, thoroughly analyzed, and converted into iron. It is declared to contain as large a per centage of metallic iron as Alabama ore. It is fortunately free from sulphur and other minerals, and consequently worked more easily and cheaply. The deposits generally lie close to the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railroad, and in consequence the product is easily transportable to market.

Having been thoroughly tested by several different parties, all of whom have recommended the establishment of smelting furnaces there, the only thing which remains to be done is to take practical steps to utilize this discovery and manufacture this iron. This also is progressing favorably, and the probability is that in a very short time there will be several iron furnaces and founderies in Northern Louisiana.

The great advantages that this will be to the State we need not point out. The discovery of iron and coal in Alabama has given that State new life and vigor, added to its wealth, and promises to make it one of the richest of the South.

What Alabama has accomplished Louisiana may hope for also from its valuable iron deposits in Clai-

borne, Bienville, Webster, De Soto, Sabine, and other parishes.

Professor Johnson, of the United States Geological Survey, has recently made a survey of the parish, and says that there are large quantities of iron ore in the parish, of fine quality, and that it can be profitably worked.

EXPERT ENDERLE'S REPORT ON CLAIBORNE PARISH
IRON ORE.

To the Times Democrat.

CLAIBORNE PARISH, Sept. 17, 1885.—Claiborne parish, the next to which I turned my attention for examination, forms about the center of the northern parishes known as the upland parishes. The area is something over 800 square miles, unbroken by any lakes or large bayou bottoms. An extensive field presents itself to the prospector to operate in.

The result of my investigations in the parish shows a more extensive area in which to find good iron ore than heretofore reported, from the State line to a point nine miles south on the west of the parish line, thence on a diagonal line running south east to where the line intersects the Middle Fork, four and a half miles west of the east parish line, from this point south to the intersection of the Homer and Arcadia road, and the south boundary of the parish; all within these lines may be considered ore-bearing territory.

Considerable bodies of ferruginous sand stone are met with on all sides; also second class ore that will

eventually be utilized. What I have heretofore reported of other parishes regarding ore bodies yet to be uncovered when active prospecting takes place, holds equally good for this parish. The second class ore which I have occasion to mention in my report refers to an ore that carries a very large per cent of iron, yet not enough to overcome the larger per cent of sand (silex). I am therefore constrained to include this grade of ore with the first, thereby adding to the volume of ore production.

A careful examination has been made of every point indicated in this report, and specimens forwarded of the same. I entered Claiborne Parish by the Minden and Homer road; five miles from the west parish line, I crossed a hill where I discovered a fine grade of ore (geodic formation). This hill runs east and west, and extends about four miles; depth of ore three feet at the point of examination. Two miles and a half south-west of Homer another deposit was met with, same kind of ore, three feet deep. One and a half miles from Homer, on the Sikes' Ferry and Homer road, there is a deposit of fine geodic ore, upwards of five feet deep and of considerable extent; same distance north of the road is a deposit of ferruginous sand stone, very large.

Ten miles nearly west of Homer and three miles south of the Sikes' Ferry and Homer road a peculiar ore is found, one half being first-class and the other siliceous ore. This ore body runs to the Webster line. Distant three miles from the above point, on my return

toward Homer, about two miles southeast of the location just mentioned, similar ore is encountered, the depth of which varies from one to five feet. The ore mentioned exists in large quantities, and adds greatly to the volume of ore production.

Nine miles southeast of Homer, I examined the northeastern end of an extensive ore deposit found in a range of hills running from this point southwest upward of eight miles, crossing the Homer and Athens road. At different points of examination I found the deposit to be rather irregular, running from three to five feet; this ore is compact and massive; that of the southwestern end is of a superior quality. I examined some ground three miles further east from the above point, but finding unfavorable conditions in the formation of this locality drove northward, crossing the Bayou D'Arbonne to Arizona; there being no improvement in the formation, I returned to Homer. About four miles east on the Homer and Farmerville road there is a small deposit of very fine geodic ore, which locality when prospected may develop into a large field.

Seven miles southwest of Homer, on the road to Minden, and half a mile west of the road, I examined an extensive deposit of ore; this will run east and west one mile, on which good ore is found; also considerable of the kind already mentioned as being composed of one half first-class and the other siliceous ore. From this point I took an easterly course to the Homer and Athens road. Nine miles south of Homer

and one mile north of this place I came on the southwestern end of the range of hills mentioned above. The depth of ore here is from one to six feet.

From Homer I took the Magnolia road running a little west of north to a point six miles, branched off one mile due west of the road, continued on this road two and a half miles northward, where an examination was made of some old fields in which I discovered considerable deposits of laminated ore in stratified formation upward of six feet deep. Large quantities of the same ore is scattered over the surface in all directions, also quantities of ore described above, being half first-class and half siliceous. The area of ore-bearing territory is about two and a half miles square.

Next the Homer and Arcadia road was taken, with the view of exploring the southeastern and western section of the parish. Six and a half miles north of the southern boundary of the parish line, and a half mile north of Arcadia, on the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railroad, I examined one of the largest deposits of laminated ore it has been my good fortune to see since these examinations have begun. The road crosses this hill, leaving half a mile east and one mile west on either side of the road, making the length of hill one and a half miles long. The ore lies in a stratified formation upward of ten feet thick. I am convinced that it extends throughout the hill from the fact that several openings made at extended intervals have invariably shown the same formation. The ore

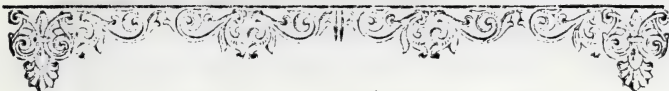
is first-class. I then continued further south to within half a mile of the parish line, turned off to the west half a mile, made an investigation of a hill running north and south about three miles, found good ore here, and considerable siliceous ore; depth, four feet, rather irregular.

My next and last investigation in this parish was directed to the northeastern portion, which embraced the territory on my way to Union Parish; from Homer I took the road to Summerfield. It soon became evident after leaving Homer that the formation of the country lying north and northeast was not favorable to first-class ores; yet hoping that there would be a change north of the Middle Fork I continued my journey to within three miles of the State line, turned southward to a point three miles north of Lisbon, where a field was examined in which some very fair ore was found, but quantity limited; thence started for Union Parish.

A number of localities were carefully examined around Summerfield and Lisbon. Nothing but ferruginous sandstone was found. The formation of this section is too sandy, hence there is no hope of finding first-class ores. Four miles northwest of Homer and one mile south of the Homer and Sikes' Ferry road a deposit of very good lignite is located. Potters' clay abounds in the parish. In half a mile of Homer a considerable deposit is found.

ED. ENDERLE, M. E.





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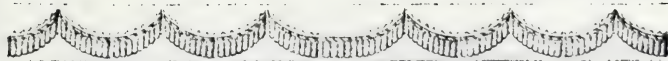
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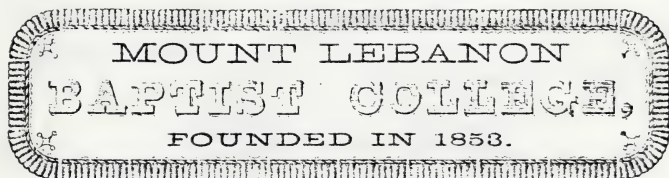
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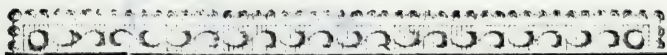
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